WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 11 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MARCH 2004

From Birmingham to Budrus Palestine as judged by the privileged

Phan Nguyen

It's one of many refrains that solidarity activists hear, uttered by those seeking to justify indifference or contempt for a people: "If only the Palestinians practiced nonviolent resistance…If only there was a Palestinian Gandhi, or a Martin Luther King, maybe then I would support the Palestinians." Such excuses legitimize the idea that Palestinians deserve the treatment that is inflicted on them by the Israeli status quo, and allow the inactivists to sleep well at night. Palestinians have chosen the path of violent resistance, it seems, and thus they forfeit their right to freedom and are undeserving of our much-valued support.

The most recent public utterance comes from the celebrated (or overrated) intellectual Stanley Crouch, whose January 26 column in the *New York Daily News*, entitled "Arabs Need to Try Nonviolence," was also carried in other US newspapers.

After sneeringly pondering "what the female equivalent of the 70 virgins supposedly awarded the male terrorist in heaven amounts to," Crouch proclaims that if the Palestinians had practiced nonviolent resistance, "there would have been a Palestinian homeland long ago." Never mind that a Palestinian homeland already exists, and the problem is it's under military occupation. Crouch explains, "Men such as Ariel Sharon would not have become important in Israeli politics, because strongmen mean essentially nothing in the world of nonviolence…Due to a long and deep moral tradition, the Israeli people would begin to crumble and start to identify—with the women and children first, then the men. Eventually, the Israeli troops would refuse even to tear gas the nonviolent demonstrators. That is the nature of civilized societies…" The implication is that the savage Palestinians must seek nonviolent forms resistance in order to be heard by the civilized Israelis.

The condescending tone is typical of many Americans who assume that Palestinians exist only in the context in which the media portrays them—as suicide bombers and militants—and thus the only thing they know how to do, their only mode of existence, is to "kill, kill and kill again," in the words of Crouch. Since they haven't attained what they wanted (whatever that may be), the diametric conclusion is that if the Palestinians engaged in nonviolent tactics, they would automatically get what they wanted.

This precludes a rich history of Palestinian nonviolent resistance. A prominent example within the first intifada in the late 1980s—which itself was largely nonviolent—is the town of Beit Sahour,

(Continued page 8)

Building Low-income Power: TULIP Credit Union is open

Pat Tassoni

After more than six years of community grassroots organizing and cooperative assistance from mainstream financial institutions, the Thurston Union of Low-Income People Cooperative Credit Union (TULIP) has finally opened. TULIP believes that lack of income should not limit one's access to participation. We want to encourage the low-income community to become involved in making a positive and renewing economic impact in the local society. We believe that these values could have far-reaching effects, and could improve the overall economic health of the region for all who live here.

As a low-income credit union, our focus is to provide products and services that are designed to meet the particular needs of our low-income members. TULIP offers personal loans up to $1000 and auto loans up to $15,000, debit and ATM cards, and checking and savings options. To qualify for membership in TULIP you must be a resident of Thurston County who earns no more than 80 percent of the national median, or approximately $35,000 annually. About 35% (or 75,000 people) of the county population qualifies (12,000 in Lacey, 18,000 in Olympia, 5,000 in Tumwater).

As a class, the Thurston County low-income community has an annual combined earning of 1/2 billion dollars. (The low-income class earnings is roughly equal to the county's top 4,000 wage earners). Still with this sizable dollar amount the individual members of the low-income class either are not eligible to join or don't qualify for other banking services and rely on the predatory services of payday-loan, pawn-shops, and check-cashing companies. There, they are left with less of their money as they pay a disproportionate amount in service fees to these companies. Banks and other credit unions do not offer services tailored to the particular needs of low-income people.

In our society, we use credit and loans as a way to improve our lives while we are still paying for those improvements. Until TULIP, the low-income class was largely excluded from accessing options to improve their positions and lives. TULIP provides an alternative financial resource for residents who might otherwise not get served at more traditional financial institutions. TULIP offers small loans and member education classes that will help teach people about banking and money management. People move from poverty to sustainability not by simply managing their income, but by accumulating assets. Savings, investments, and ownership are options that can lead people to financial self-sufficiency. The process of paying over time is the most common way that people of limited means can build assets and enjoy the financial security that comes with ownership. For example, many of us don't have sufficient savings to go to an auto dealer and pay for a car with cash, so the process of paying in installments over time allows us to have the car before we have the funds to own it outright. Once a loan is repaid, the borrower owns the item that the loan was for, and that item becomes the owner'' asset.

In addition to offering options for individual improvement, TULIP is an opportunity to quantify the low-income class as a powerful and relevant entity. As it is now, the rich and middle class are the ones most catered to by society and are often the ones to set the policy that governs us all. The low-income class has a Ω billion dollar impact in Thurston County, but it is often ignored since we are disenfranchised and isolated in our daily struggles. Combining into a collective and cooperative financial institution will allow us to recognize our power and force others to take notice of the low-income class. One important way to demonstrate this is to

(Continued page 14)

Gazebo Lockup Follow-up Report

Drew Hendricks

Long Hair David (LHD), the founder of EGYHOP (Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project), was arrested by state troopers at Sylvester Park on Monday, February 16 and held for a little more than 24 hours in Thurston County Jail.

Last month, LHD wrote the article about the Gazebo in Sylvester Park, surrounded now by a gate and fence. On Monday the state troopers who arrested him used the Gazebo as a mini-lockup as they held David, handcuffed, and went through his pockets.

The facts as we know them are:

Three state troopers approached David on foot, and surrounded him around 6:15pm Monday, February 16th. They accused him of dropping cigarettes on the ground. David was not smoking, but had a smudge stick of bundled sage lit and was using it in a religious ceremony. A verbal exchange happened, and then one of the troopers took LHD to the ground. He was quickly handcuffed, and taken by the officers into the Gazebo. They emptied his pockets and took him to Thurston County Jail. He got out of jail around 24 hours later, Tuesday evening. The web site that lists prisoners at the Jail listed his charge as 3rd Degree Assault, a felony. He was released on personal recognizance, though.

The facts of the incident are still under investigation by Olympia Copwatch. Witnesses can call us at 870-3127 or contact us in person by leaving a note with Media Island volunteer in care of this author.

We would also like to ask Olympia area attorneys to step forward, since this case has potential heavy consequences (life in prison?) for LHD, who has had some felony convictions in the past.

WIP Has a New E-mail Addresss!!!

wip@zhonka.net

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or you aren't submitting it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, March 19th

WIP Meeting
Call 956-1168 for more info

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You are welcome to join us to help write:
INVOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY
THE GUIDE TO LIVING IN OLYMPIA ON $440 A MONTH

We need your savvy tips and recipes that stretch your food stamps, what places are kid-friendly, where there is low-income admission, what's fun and free, how do you celebrate holiday with no money, where's the free stuff.

MONDAY, MARCH 1ST POT-LUCK AT 5:30, ends at 8pm
CHILDREN WELCOME, CHILD CARE PROVIDED
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1224 LEGION WAY SE

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZING COALITION
A grassroots, nonprofit organization working since 1984 to give a voice to low-income families who deserve to demand fair treatment and enough income to meet their basic needs.

9716-9716-9716
wrocoly@wroc.org

WIP Seeking Layout Volunteer

Interested in putting your PageMaker skills to use for social change? Then give us a call at 956-1168

BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CLINIC

For people who must rely on public benefits, knowing the rules and how to advocate for your self is crucial to getting and keeping the benefits that provide for your family's basic needs.

Join us on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH
at 3:30
822 OLYMPIA AVENUE NE

if you are under 21

This is a clinic for the Baby's in Bloom Parenting Group,
A partnership of the Mary Sheridan Foundation and CYS

If you would like to schedule a clinic for your group, contact the

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
9716-9716-9716
wrocoly@wroc.org

WIP Needs Distributors!

We have a couple of distribution routes in need of drivers. Interested in a small but essential volunteering role at WIP? Then call us at 956-1168.

(Continued Page 15)

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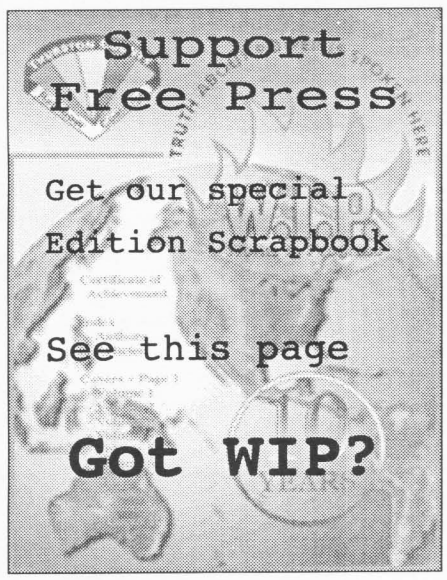

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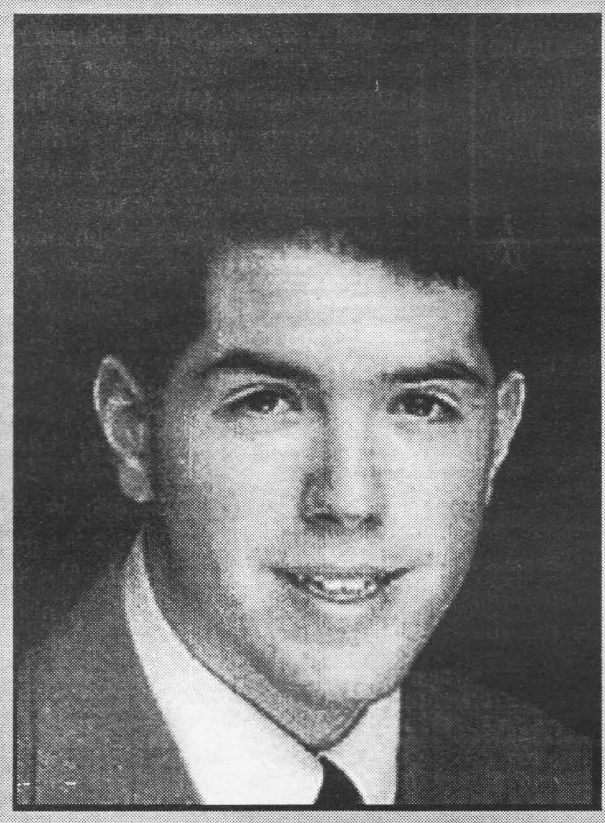
MARCH 2004

The attack on Ryan Anderson
Crying wolf beneath a falling sky

The arrest of Ryan Anderson is at worst the case of a young man too trusting and immature regarding the power of appearances. More significantly, this situation, added to past actions against Captain James Yee, reveals a government too eager to smear the reputation of its citizens to justify the righteousness of its policies.

Although it appeared Anderson wanted to join al-Qaida, he came across as a "wannabe" rather than a serious figure, a federal law-enforcement source said. Most of the information Anderson offered the undercover agent was the type "you could learn on the History Channel" or was "common knowledge stuff." **Mike Carter,** ***Seattle Times***

National security was never at risk.



National Guardsman, Spc. Ryan Anderson, 1995 high school yearbook picture

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
...I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years of your childhood...	**1** 2003: Iraq begins destroying missiles; Bush says it is too late 2003: Blair likens opponents of Iraqi invasion to Hitler appeasers	**2** 2003: Teamsters ratify a severance agreement w/ Miller Brewing 2, 2003: CIA retracts reports of dissent among N Korean elite	**3** 2003: US jets hit communication sites in Iraq killing 6 2003: Antiwar activists stop/hammer their cars on 4th Ave Bridge	**4** 2003: Albany: man charged w/ trespassing in mall after refusing to take off t-shirt w/ "Peace on Earth" and "Give peace a chance"	**5** 1831: Supreme Court rules the Cherokees are a distinct political society capable of governing itself, and managing its own affairs	**6** 2003: Bush tells allies "we really don't need anybody's permission" 2003: Pentagon sends bombers to Guam to intimidate N Korea
7 2003: UN rejects US ultimatum for Iraq 2003: UN nuclear weapons inspector calls nuclear evidence against Iraq forged	**8** 1948: Supreme Court abolishes religion in the public schoolroom, declaring such practices violate first amendment to the US Constitution	**9** 1999: Local Eagles chapter is dissolved by state organization and local members claim it is because of their efforts to admit women	**10** 1917: Petrograd: Workers demonstrate to protest war and famine. 2003: France and Russia will veto any call for war against Iraq	**11** 1824: Bureau of Indian Affairs created within War Department 2003: WA state sets 2012 deadline for DOE clean up of Hanford	**12** 2003: FBI will investigate forged letters linking Iraq to Nigeria after UN weapons inspectors declared them "not authentic"	**13** 2003: UN human rights chief accuses US of human rights violations in Guantanamo 2003: Turkey outlaws Kurdish political party
14 1999: Black applicants to UW law school declined 41% since I-200 2000: Enlisted personnel families on public welfare widespread	**15** 1869: Custer discovers 2 Cheyenne villages near TX-OK boundary; both villages surrender when he threatens to hang the captured chief	**16** 1968: My Lai massacre in Viet Nam 2003: Israeli military tank driver murders Rachel Corrie; 1,000 attend candlelight vigil	**17** 2003: Bush gives Saddam Hussein 48 hours to step down 2003: Suspected cases of deadly flu-like illness around the globe	**18** 2003: Baird calls for full investigation into Rachel Corrie's death 2003: Cheney says US troops will be "greeted as liberators"	**19** 2003: US begins invasion of Iraq w/ cruise missile strikes; Pentagon overrides Iraqi state radio to broadcast US propaganda	**20** 2003: Ground troops move toward Baghdad 2003: Russia's Putin: "nothing can justify this military action, Iraq posed no threat."
21 2003: McDermott and 10 others refuse to vote for resolution to support the troops that included support for President Bush	**22** 2003: 200,000 demonstrate in Manhattan NY 2003: Pope: invasion of Iraq threatens humanity 2003: Afghanistan: US seizes weapons cache	**23** 23, 2003: 17 US soldiers killed in fighting, 4 captured 2003: Michael Moore protests the war when accepting his Oscar	**24** 2003: US bomb hits Baghdad neighborhood killing four 2003: Singapore quarantines 100s; deaths in Hong Kong/Vietnam	**25** 2003: Pew Poll reveals 38% think the Iraq war is going well, yet Bush is supported by 70% 2003: The hype on Jessica Lynch begins	**26** 2003: Canada claims SARS is spreading faster than expected 2003: Nat'l Guard soldier dies 5 days after smallpox vaccination	**27** 1973: US Supreme Court rules that states cannot charge income taxes to Indians who earn all of their incomes on reservations
28 2003: US missile hits market in Baghdad 2003: Pentagon will no longer vaccinate those for smallpox who have heart conditions	**29** 2003: Iraq: suicide bomber kills 4 troops 2003: Saudi Arabia/ Turkey close US firing lanes in Red Sea after nonmilitary targets hit	**30** 30, 1824: Pres. Monroe refuses Georgia request that Natives be removed from state 1999: Portland: smoker awarded $81 million	**31** 2003: NBC fires Arnett for granting interview to Iraqi TV 2003: Congress dumps smallpox compensation bill for injuries	...spent existing – just existing – in resistance to the constant stranglehold of the world's fourth largest military – backed by the world's only superpower – in its attempt to erase you from your home. Rachel Corrie in Palestine		

Welfare Rights: Surviving in Difficult Times

Monica Peabody

On Monday, February 16th, low-income parents from all over Washington state offered "the shirts off their backs" and asked Washington state legislators "do no harm" to their families. Shirts from all over the United States were added to shirts they decorated. These shirts explained how welfare had made a difference for their families by allowing them the basic necessities they needed to survive in times of difficulties, and how welfare laws had hurt their families by ignoring the importance of their roles as caregiver by putting barriers in the way of finishing college, by ignoring their needs to be safe in the face of domestic violence and by creating unrealistic expectations and then sanctioning, or cutting the welfare grant of parents unable to comply. There were close to a hundred shirts and for each one, a family whose lives were affected by welfare.

The Shirts Off Our Back Day was sponsored by the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, WROC. WROC is a grassroots, nonprofit organization whose goal is to empower low-income people, especially welfare recipients, to create a broad power base to work for systematic change of the welfare system while demanding to be treated fairly and with dignity. WROC agrees with the growing number of organizations and individuals who believe that the legislators should focus on policies that work to reduce poverty, not welfare caseloads.

In May 2003, Governor Locke asked the Department of Social and Health Services, DSHS, to decrease the number of families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). DSHS offices across the state responded by making benefits harder to get and to keep. This affects the children, who make up two-thirds of Washington's TANF caseload. Most of these children live with a single mother. Low-income women already face discrimination and prejudice in an economy that does not value their labor. By focusing solely on caseload reduction instead of poverty reduction, Governor Locke is harming his constituents. WROC members responded by wearing case numbers and marching to the Governor's office to remind him that people are not numbers.

Currently Senate Bill 6559 is being heard. It would create a thirty-day wait period for access to TANF benefits. Anyone who has ever been in a welfare office knows that people do not come there until they are desperate and making those families wait for one month before they receive assistance would increase their suffering, making them more vulnerable to hunger, homelessness and other dangers. This bill would also create full family sanction by getting rid of the child safety net, an extension to benefits Governor Locke created to protect children. Call your legislators and tell them they must vote no against harmful and punitive policies. (Legislative switchboard phone: 1-800-562-6000.)

Low-income women already face discrimination and prejudice in an economy that does not value their labor.

Legislators currently have the ability to eliminate premiums on Medicaid for children from families living at 150% - 200% of the poverty level. These families struggle to meet their basic needs and shouldn't have to choose between things like food or health insurance. Eliminating premiums would keep thousands of Washington state children from losing their health care coverage. Legislators are also looking at ideas about how to reduce hunger in Washington State, where we have some of the highest hunger rates in the nation. Ask your legislators to decrease the harm from hunger by voting yes on the hunger bill and to eliminate Medicaid premiums.

Nationwide the number of families living in poverty went up by more than 300,000; from 6.6 million in 2001 to 7 million in 2003. The number of children in poverty rose by more than 600,000 during that same period. President Bush's answer is to pour billions of dollars into programs encouraging marriage. Not only does marriage fail to reduce poverty, creating incentives to stay in a marriage or disincentives to leave a marriage will increase domestic violence. Bush would also like to increase the required work hours for TANF recipients without adequately increasing funding for childcare.

Low-income families are harmed by caseload reduction and cuts to essential services. "The Shirt Off Our Backs Day" is a national grassroots effort to bring the message to Washington D.C. and now to our Washington state legislators that welfare policies should "Do No Harm." We believe that poverty can be ended and that all of the children in our nation deserve access to basic necessities. Bethany Hayes-Park, an Olympia mother with two young children, decorated a shirt that reads, "Everyone benefits when mothers are encouraged to raise their children, not paid to put them in childcare in exchange for low-wage jobs." She added her shirt to those from people throughout the country who have offered the "Shirts Off Their Backs."

For more information about WROC, call 360-352-9716 or email wrocoly@wroc.org or visit our website at www.wroc.org. We hold volunteer meetings every Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 in our office in the Payne Room at the First Christian Church, downtown at 701 Franklin Street SE.

Do No Harm

Tom Beare

At the "Shirts Off Our Back" rally on the Capital Campus organized by Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition last Monday messages painted on T-shirts from low-income parents and children from across the country told stories of insufficient welfare benefits, family hardships brought on by poverty, and strong resilient people not willing to take welfare program cuts lying down. The message to the Senate is "Do No Harm" to welfare recipients by passing a bill that would put a 30-day waiting period in front of families needing temporary assistance through the TANF (temporary assistance for needy families) program.

I stood outside a tent with walls made from t-shirts while women shared experiences of McJobs, poverty, and raising children on welfare. For me, a twenty-year-old male college student, the realities of poverty are not always obvious at school, but after listening for a few minutes a blind eye no longer seemed possible. One story was from a single mother who is struggling to raise her child while working 'Mcjobs' that provide no benefits, but are required by welfare to work program, instead of being able to take care of her child. This is enough to make anyone realize the severe negative effects of the attack against welfare that has been happening since the late seventies.

The TANF program is in danger of being slashed and restricted while our administration and Senate is deficit spending billions of dollars on an imperial war rather than supporting struggling parents during what looks like a jobless recovery from a recession that pushed many people into poverty.

In September 2003 TANF was amended by the Federal Finance committee to increase work participation requirements from 50% to 55 % in 2005, 60% in 2006, 65% in 2007, and ending at 70% in 2008. Under the proposed amendment states can choose to waive the work requirement to all families in the first month of assistance or families with children under one year old. This was not included in the TANF extension passed in a rush at the end of the Congressional session in October, but a vote is expected by the end of the month. Tighter requirements on who can receive benefits functions to cut people out of the system who are no longer able to find a job.

The work requirement can be reduced slightly for single parents, but job searches and the work of motherhood does not count in the eyes of the state, it also requires parents to spend much less time with their children, mothers of young children can no longer nurse, it also is hard to find cheap enough yet adequate childcare. One shirt displayed in the tent at the rally was from a young boy asking if his mom could be home more often so she could take care of his disabled brother who was removed from her custody because she is required through welfare to work in order to receive aid, to work more hours instead of take care of her child. This is the situation of many poor people trying to raise a family in poverty.

One possible amendment to current law that would be very positive would grant states ability to ignore federal requirements for aid through superwaivers, a concept put forward in the administrations TANF proposal. Under the House bill, states could waive federal requirements in the TANF, Food Stamp, public housing, homelessness, Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), basic adult education, and Workforce Investment Act programs. This would be a big step forward, but without more funding for welfare programs across the board it would be ineffective

TANF could be reformed in helpful ways as well as these harmful ones, but the truth is, without a major increase in available funding, programs, and community support outside the terms the Senate is willing to discuss, poor families, parents, and especially mothers will not be able to pull themselves out of poverty. If nothing changes, survival will not be guaranteed through the state, only through the strength displayed by the women who spoke at the rally and organize with groups like WROC.

Patriot Act Watch

New York City Passes Resolution Opposing Patriot Act; INS Detention Center Being Built in Tacoma Tideflats

Howard Rosenfeld

The list of large cities to pass anti-patriot act resolutions continues to grow this month with the nation's largest, New York City, passing a resolution on February 4th. Kansas City, MO also passed a resolution and the number of cities or municipalities to pass a resolution swelled to 257 as of February 20th, according to the ACLU.

Not only is NYC the largest city to pass a resolution but was also the hardest hit by the terror attacks of 2001; the condemnation of the Patriot Act and support of civil liberties there sends an especially powerful message that the tactics of the Justice Department and Bush Administration are unpopular.

The Patriot Act is really unpatriotic, it undermines our civil rights and civil liberties," said council member Bill Perkins (D-Manhattan), the bill's sponsor. "We never give up our rights that's what makes us Americans." (Washington Post, 2/5/2004)

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) held a forum on the Patriot Act in February at the Olympia Center. Anthropologist David Price of St. Martin's College in Lacey, Heather Francks of the ACLU and Carrie Lybecker, a graduate student at Evergreen studying public policy were the featured speakers and about 30-40 people showed up.

A note on the OMJP list-serv reported in January that the Washington State Legislature had introduced bills condemning the Patriot Act. Senate Joint Memorial 8053 was introduced by Senators Thibaudeau, Kohl-Welles, Kline, McAuliffe and Spanel on February 4th and House Joint Memorial 4033 was introduced on January 20th and its cosponsors include Representatives Romero and Hunt (representing Olympia), Moeller, Nixon, Dunshee, Tom, Santos, Jarrett, Lantz, Flannigan, Kirby, G. Simpson, Dickerson, Chase, Darneille, Hunter, Veloria, Upthegrove, Morrell, and Kagi. Senator Karen Fraser supports the Senate bill but her office concedes that it is probably too late for both of these bills to go anywhere since they had to be on the floor by February 17th, although they also concede that anything could still happen. I will report on any progress these bills make in this column.

The Associated Press wrote about a report issued by the Justice Department that found no abuses of civil liberties and civil rights under the Patriot Act (http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/0401a/index.htm). Of the 1,266 complaints in the last half of 2003 it received, 17 of them involved Justice employees and merited a full investigation, according to the story. While it's fine that the OIG is investigating how the Patriot Act is implemented, this report doesn't address the main issue that the act itself is a violation of civil liberties. It also seems like the DOJ is trying to document what a good job they're doing implementing the act. Please send your pats on the back, congratulations and kudos for the Department of Justice to John Ashcroft.

Another bill to repeal certain provisions of the Patriot Act will be introduced in February by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) who will be the bill's first co-sponsor. **The Civil Liberties Restoration Act** aims to: restore due process for those jailed by the government; stop the targeting of immigrants instead of terrorists, and protect privacy and ensure limits on secret surveillance. The National Immigration Forum is organizing for a House version as well and expect Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Bill Delahunt (D-MA) to introduce the bill. To get more information about the bill, visit the website of the Immigrant Worker Freedom Rides' **website (www.iwfr.org/clra.asp) or contact Shoba Sivaprasad (ssivaprasad@immigrationforum.org)** of the National Immigration Forum.

The War on Terror

A new jail complex is sprouting from the ground in the Tacoma tideflats. The new INS complex will be a 500-bed facility and is located at 1623 J St., the former location of a meat-packing plant. Correctional Services Corp. will build and operate the facility and the United for Peace Pierce County Chapter website has links to documents of repeated instances of mismanagement, financial impropriety and outright abuse of its prisoners; you can view this at www.ufppc.org/ - scroll down to the article for the link. Some of it reads as follows:

". . . a few pieces relating to the Homeland Security prison that will soon be opening in the Tacoma Tideflats, to be managed by the Correctional Services Corporation (CSC) of Sarasota, Florida. None of them mention the "Northwest Detention Center," as it is to be called, but they help set it in a larger context, and even suggest ways in which it is linked to the policies that led us into war in Iraq.

The pieces below from Prison Privatisation Report International (PPRI) report:

- that the U.S. government has ambitious plans for apprehending and deporting massive numbers of illegal aliens in the next five years[1];

- that funds amounting to $10 million for sending U.S. private prison-building experts to Iraq for six months (at $100,000 per expert) were included in the Bush administration's late summer 2003 request for $20.3 billion toward rebuilding Iraq[2];

- that Correctional Services Corp. (CSC) was ordered last year by a Texas court to pay $35 million plus $5.1 million in punitive damages in a case involving the death of an 18-year-old who fell ill but was denied treatment while in the corporation's care[3];

- that CSC was being investigated by the New York State Board of Elections for providing unreported help to the campaigns of politicians in New York[4];

- that in April 2003 Southern Catholic Bishops issued a statement calling for an end to all private prisons on the grounds that they are "not consistent with the need for our prisons to respect the human dignity of each and every person"[5];

- that in early 2003 CSC was once again fined for over-contributing to politicians, this time being required to pay $300,000 in a civil fine for failure to disclose gifts it made to New York politicians who helped the company obtain millions of dollars' worth of business[6];

- that a May 2002 Harvard Law Review article touting the virtues of private prisons turned out to have been indirectly funded by conservative libertarian think tanks[7];

- and that a new organization dedicated to fighting prison privatization called "Citizens Against Private Prisons of North America (CAPP)" was formed in July 2002[8].

A Tacoma resident posted her thoughts on the Seattle Indymedia Website at this address http://www.seattle.indymedia.org/en/2004/02/238333.shtml – check it out; it gives a valuable local perspective.

A Justice Department veteran prosecutor, Richard Covertino, has filed a lawsuit against John Ashcroft and other top Justice Dept officials alleging that he was the target of a smear campaign that resulted in the exposure of a valuable counterterrorism informant. He also:

"...accuses senior Justice officials of "gross mismanagement" of terrorism cases, contending that "DOJ Washington had continuously placed 'perception' over 'reality' to the serious detriment of the war on terror . . . Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University, said a lawsuit like Convertino's is almost unheard of within the Justice Department and could undermine the government's credibility in other terrorism cases." ."(Washington Post, 2/18/2004)

And finally, some links for more information . . .

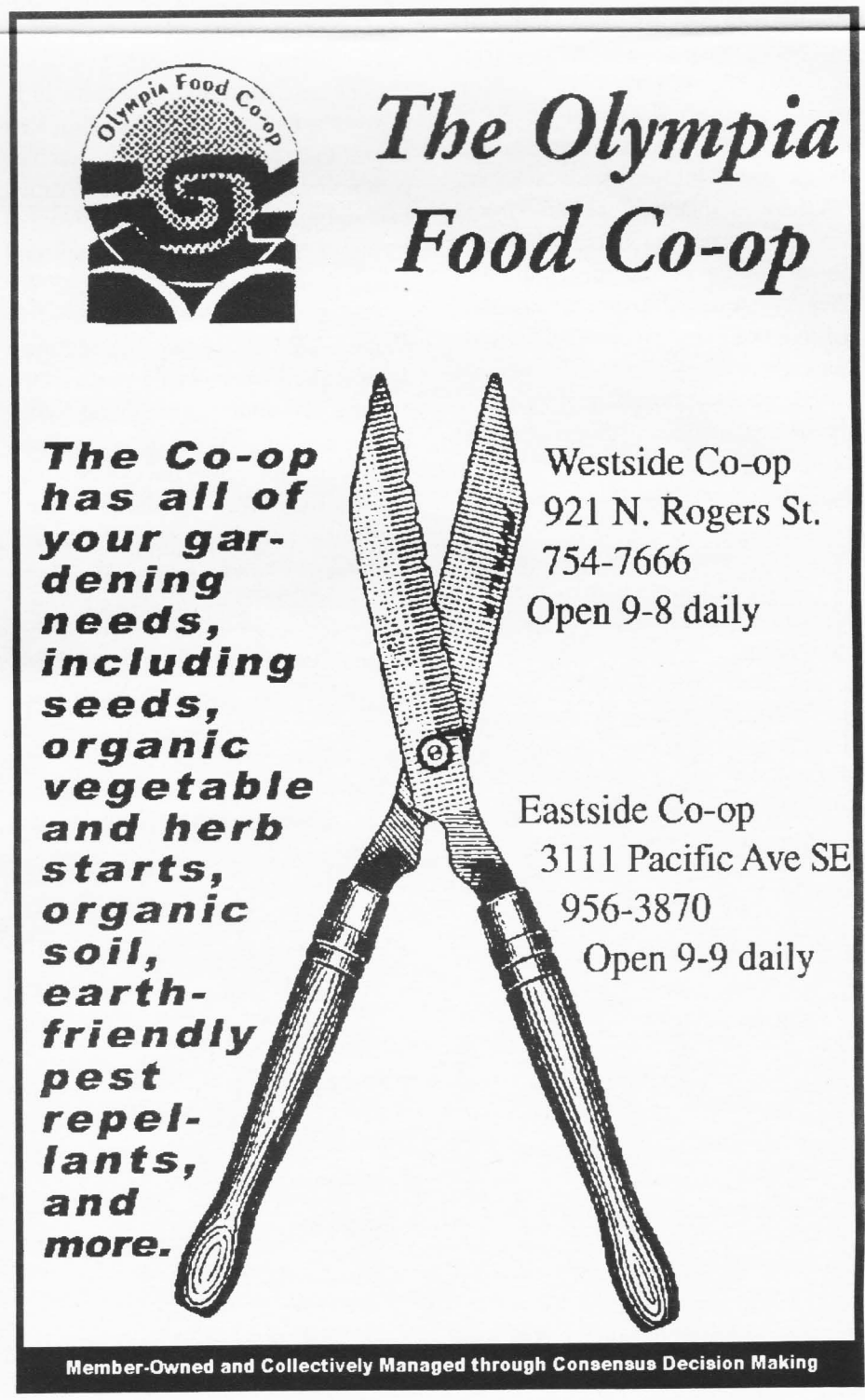
1). **Patriot Watch** - links to articles about threats to civil liberties. Updated Daily. www.patriotwatch.org

*2). **Center for Public Integrity** - obtained the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, aka "Patriot II," and posted it on its website.*

www.publicintegrity.org

3). ***Bill of Rights Defense Committee** Collection of articles – excellent resource.*

http://www.bordc.org/articles.htm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The Co-op has all of your gardening needs, including seeds, organic vegetable and herb starts, organic soil, earth-friendly pest repellants, and more.
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Mercury Risk Rising

Dave Zink

I'd like you to meet a young family: Angela, Jerry, and their little girl Becky. Angela cares about her family's health & tries to provide them with a healthy diet, including fresh fish a couple times a week. Jerry loves the outdoors and fishing. Becky was born and developed normally & was a happy baby.

Things seemed to be on the right track until about Becky's 16th month, when things mysteriously started to go wrong. By 18 months, she had entirely lost the six or seven spoken words she had started using earlier. She started avoiding eye contact with her mom, and became uncoordinated, inattentive, irritable, and withdrawn. Angela and Jerry would often find Becky staring vacantly into space and biting her hands.

Nobody knew what to make of this. Becky's doctor was perplexed, and ran Becky through some tests. The results confirmed autism and revealed the likely culprit: mercury.

Becky's not alone. The number of children with mercury-caused problems is growing. According to new estimates from the EPA, 16% of women of child-bearing age have dangerous levels of mercury in their bodies, putting over 600 thousand children at risk each year.

Where is this stuff coming from? Coal-burning power plants are the single largest source of mercury pollution. They release over 200 thousand pounds (10 tons) of mercury into the environment annually in the U.S. Once released into the atmosphere, it soon gets into streams, lakes, and the sea, where it forms methyl mercury – a potent neurotoxin. It targets the developing fetal brain and nervous system. Even tiny amounts can cause serious developmental problems, reflected in humans as difficulties in walking, talking, hearing, and writing.

President Bush's "Clear Skies Initiative" will allow power plants to increase mercury emissions by 520% by 2010. In December, Mike Leavitt, Bush's new EPA administrator, said that it is "not feasible" to determine how much mercury the chemical & power plants are emitting, nor to enforce tougher standards. The EPA proposed allowing power plants to spew more mercury into the air longer. Leavitt's favored "free market" approach includes emissions trading that will likely create toxic "hot spots". Power corporations' generous contributions to Bush and lobbying efforts to avoid installing improved emission control equipment have apparently succeeded. Environmentalists fear this will delay substantial mercury reductions by a decade.

At the same time, EPA is planning on exempting coal combustion waste from regulation as hazardous waste, ensuring that more than 100 million tons of mercury-laden waste will be dumped into the environment each year.

Coal-burning power plants are the single largest source of mercury pollution ... Even tiny amounts can cause serious developmental problems, reflected in humans as difficulties in walking, talking, hearing, and writing.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently recommends that all women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant and nursing women, avoid eating swordfish, pollock, mackerel, tilefish, or shark. Four ounces of white canned tuna maxes out the federal EPA guidelines for a 120 pound person. Forty three states have issued warnings against eating fish species that tend to have high mercury concentrations, including bass, trout, and other fish caught in over a thousand lakes and streams across the country. And any vaccines containing thimerosal, a preservative containing mercury, should be avoided by pregnant and nursing women and young children.

Persistent toxic bio-accumulative chemicals ("PBT"s) like mercury are a serious problem in many parts of the country. To address this threat to our health and the environment, the WA State Dept of Ecology developed a plan to phase out PBTs which build up in the food chain and are known even in trace amounts to cause birth defects, cancer, and mental retardation. Faced with a budgetary shortfall created by tax exemptions and cuts for the corporations, the WA State legislature eliminated funding for vital public health programs like the PBT phase-out plan.

Environmental and public health, our food supply—is nothing safe from capitalism?

Figures From The Iraq War

Alice Zillah

Number of people living in Iraq:
22-25 Million
Number of children living in Iraq:
13 Million
Estimated number of Iraqi civilian deaths due to war and occupation, as of February 23:
8,245 to 10,089
Total number of deaths from Iraqi combatants and those suspected of being combatants:
Unknown
Total number of American soldiers killed in Iraq, as of February 23:
547
Number of suicides of American soldiers as of February 23:
21
Number of cluster bombs the Pentagon says were dropped on Iraq:
1,500
Number of "bomblets" that each cluster bomb contains:
202
Number of bomblets that remain unexploded after being dropped:
5%
Estimated number of as-yet-unexploded cluster bomblets that remain in Iraq:
15,000
Number of children killed or maimed after picking up brightly colored bomblets:
Unknown
Number of years that depleted uranium contaminates air and water after it has been used:
7
Half-life of depleted uranium:
4.5 Billion Years
Increase of cancer rates in Iraq after first Gulf War, in which depleted uranium was used:
600%
Number of American Gulf War veterans who have a health-related disability:
25%
Length of time that the UN determined would be required in order to set up elections, based on a report from last August:
6 months
Length of time that the US says is required to set up elections, from February 2004:
15 months
Amount by which Halliburton was in the red in the second quarter of 2002:
-$498 Million
Amount by which Halliburton posted a profit in the second quarter of 2003:
$26 Million
Amount of contracts that Halliburton has already received from the US for their work in Iraq:
$1.7 Billion
Number of Iraqi state companies that have been privatized under US occupation:
200
Amount by which a foreign company can own an Iraqi mine, bank, or factory, under US occupation:
100%
Amount of profits that can be taken out of the country by a foreign firm, under US occupation:
100%
Current rate of unemployment in Iraq:
70%
Amount of Iraqis who say the Americans are an occupying force, not a liberating force:
80%
Amount of Iraqis who say they want the coalition forces to leave:
62%
Number of chemical weapons found in Iraq:
None
Number of biological weapons found in Iraq:
None
Number of nuclear weapons or materials to make nuclear weapons found in Iraq:
None
Number of months the Bush administration has left until they are kicked out of office:
8

VIC'S PIZZERIA

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"Jolom Mayaetik: Maya Women Weaving Resistance in Chiapas"

Jason Wallach

NW Tour
April 3-17, 2004

Jolom Mayaetik (Mayan Women Weavers) is a cooperative formed in 1996 of several hundred women weavers in Chiapas, Mexico. The cooperative is collectively run and serves as an important vehicle for leadership development for indigenous women in zones throughout the state. Their objectives are to weave and market their "artesania" (craftwork), to educate women about their rights as women and as indigenous, and to realize their own potential as indigenous women to build a just economy. Jolom women consider themselves in resistance to social and economic injustice. They have organized and mobilized in local San Cristobal activist coalitions, including for the unforgettable 1999 International Women's Day March.

Women artisans of Chiapas constitute one of the main sources of income for indigenous families. In many cases, artisan work is the only way women earn hard currency, especially when crops fail to produce enough to sustain a family. This work is especially important for households headed by single women.

Fair Trade Cooperatives allow women to play central roles in the development of local economies. Through cooperatives, women have a stronger voice in developing a sustainable model of trade based on economic justice. Fair Trade allows community cooperatives to raise money to improve the living conditions for their communities, control the production and marketing of products, construct a just economy on a local level in which women can be central participants in the management of their own products, maintain ancestral knowledge, support sustainable agriculture, and provide much needed funds for community development projects.

Celerina Ruiz Nuñez, Jolom Mayaetik President of Jolom and Celia Santiz Ruiz, store manager at San Cristobal de Las Casas will present on:

§ Promote a sustainable model of international trade based on economic justice

§ Discuss the impact that fair trade has on Mexican indigenous communities

§ Discuss the leadership of women in the fair trade cooperatives

§ Offer cooperative-made crafts for sale in order to raise money to improve the living conditions in communities. And, back-strap loom demonstration.

The women will present and be available to sell their crafts on Wednesday, April 7 at

1. The Evergreen State College Library Lobby from Noon to 2 PM

2. Traditions Fair Trade Café t downtown Olympia from 7-10 PM

To bring the tour to your city, please contact Jason Wallach at (312) 961-5381 (cell) and Lucilene Lira in Olympia at 360.259-1879.

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Israel & Palestine: A "Rainbow of Desire"

Interactive Theatre Event

Facilitated by Marc Weinblatt

When: **Saturday, April 10th 1:30 – 4:30PM**

Where: **The Olympia Center 222 Columbia St. NW**

Free and open to the public

Sponsored by The Evergreen State College & members of the Olympia-area Middle East Planning Group

Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister City Delegation Coming to Olympia

Serena Becker

I was not able to put the accent mark on the word Tomas, it belongs over the a. If you have the ability to do this it would be greatly appreciated.

This spring the Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association will continue to strengthen its sister city relationship by bringing a delegation of four members from Santo Tomas, Nicaragua to Olympia, Wa. This delegation constitutes the seventh delegation of *Tomasinos* to come to Olympia. The delegation is made up of four individuals, Loreyna Mejia, Dr. Carlos Ochoa, Ana Maria Sanchez, and Normantina Aguilar.

The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association began 15 years ago to counteract US military aggression toward Nicaragua. Its goals are to strengthen people-to-people relationships between our countries and actively oppose unjust US policies, as well as work to educate our community about the continued impact of US foreign policy in Nicaragua. Through these means we hope to foster peace and justice, and challenge the imbalance of power between our two countries while supporting self-determination for the Nicaraguan people.

The up-coming delegation will spend three weeks in Olympia between April 15- May 5, 2004. They will experience many aspects of life in Olympia (and the United States in general) through numerous activities, organizations and community events. They will live with host-families, work in various community projects, and visit surrounding areas of Olympia such as Mt. Rainer, and the Washington coast.

This delegation is made up of four people with a wide array of interests and backgrounds. Loreyna Mejia is a teacher at a local elementary school in Santo Tomas. Dr. Carlos Ochoa is the doctor at *La Clinica Popular*, a local health clinic in Santo Tomas run by the CDC, our sister organization in Santo Tomas. Ana Maria Sanchez works at the farm run by the CDC, which supplies food to the children's free lunch program. She is also an herbalist. Normantina Aguilar, is a student at the *Universidad*, and volunteers in the children's free lunch program.

While in Olympia, each of the delegates will be participating and volunteering with different organization. Some of them include, Lincoln Elementary School, The Evergreen State College, Evergreen Bilingual Elementary School in Shelton, GRUB (Garden Raised Bounty), and Sea-Mar Health Clinic to name a few.

We are in the process of raising money for the airfare from Nicaragua to Washington State. As Nicaragua is one of the most impoverished countries in Latin America, we provide the financial assistance needed from our delegates to come to Olympia.

There are many up-coming and ongoing events in the community to support this endeavor. We encourage you to come and support this increasingly important and unique cultural exchange. You are invited to be apart of a relationship built on trust and solidarity between people of Nicaragua and the United States.

Up-coming events include:

* April 1st, 7pm, Traditions Café, 5th and Water St. Film night and Fundraiser. Come see Know our People/ Conocer a Nuestro Pueblo. Question and answer session with people who have traveled to Santo Tomas after the film.

* April 17th, Capitol Theater, Welcome Party for our Nicarguan guest!

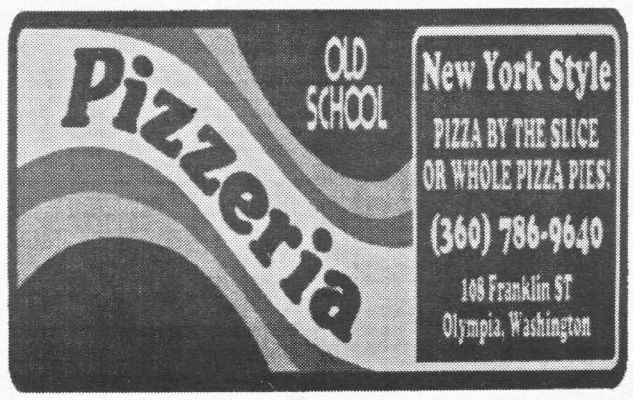
* March, TSTSCA newsletter, 8 pages of information about our seventh Nicaraguan delegation.

* House Cleaning fundraiser. Contact Sarah Thorn @ 360-570-0492

* Look for up-coming events at The Evergreen State College.

If you cannot make it to any of these events but would like to contribute to bringing this wonderful group of people to Olympia you may contact TSTSCA at 360-432-9160, or you can write to us at: Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association, PO Box 561, Olympia, Wa. 98507.

Keep your eyes out for more community events once the delegates arrive. This is a very special opportunity to get to know the other half of our sister city and become involved in an organization dedicated to self-empowerment, social, and economic justice.



(From Birmingham to Budrus: Palestine as judged by the privileged, Continued from page 1)

which organized the most successful tax revolt during the period. When the entire town refused to pay taxes to their Israeli occupier under the slogan, "No taxation without representation," the Israeli military sealed the town, declaring it a "closed military zone." The phone lines were cut and journalists were barred entry. The town leaders had already prepared for such a reaction, having taken the steps to ensure that the town was as self-sufficient as possible. The military then proceeded to confiscate factory equipment, shop merchandise, and personal possessions. The nonviolent organizers were jailed and beaten. The entire town was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize. A UN security council resolution criticizing Israel for its violent tactics against the tax revolt was vetoed by the United States.

The nonviolent tradition continues in the current intifada. If one is looking for a Palestinian Martin Luther King, then one can look to Ayed Morar, the community leader of the village of Budrus, west of Ramallah. Morar has led his village in a popular nonviolent movement against the destruction of their lands for the erection of the Israeli wall. Morar and his brothers have been arrested for their nonviolent mobilization. And like Martin Luther King, we cannot just credit the man, but also the people who mobilized under him and who continued to mobilize when Morar was imprisoned. The Israeli military has responded with gunfire, both live rounds and rubber-coated steel bullets, as well as with tear gas, but despite a number of injured, the town has persisted. Men, women and children have all stood their ground against the bulldozers.

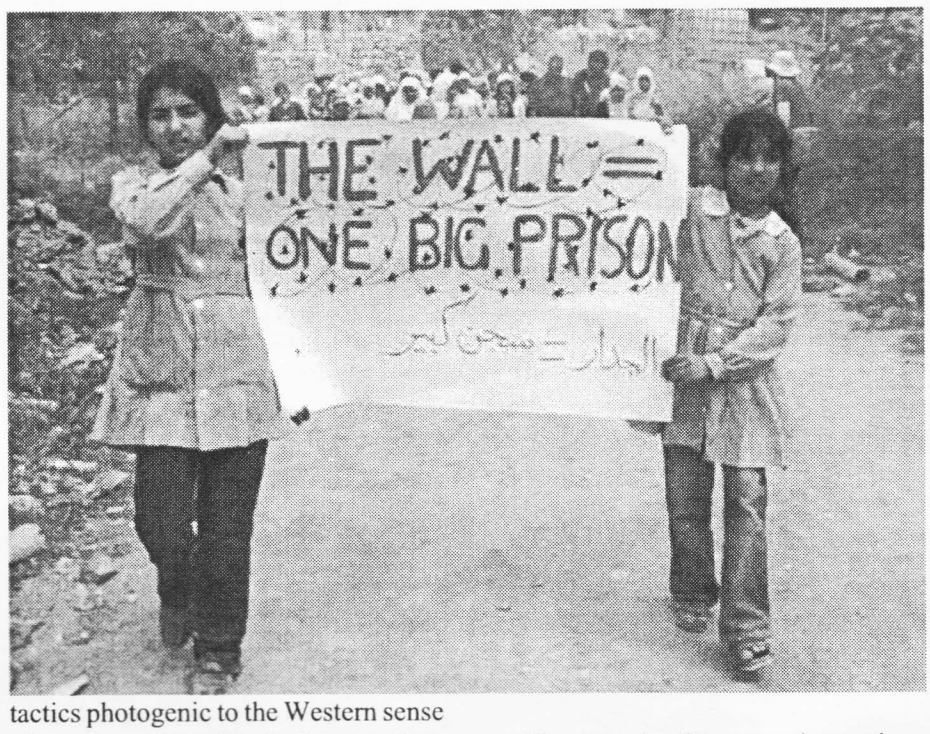
Instead of calling for Palestinians to engage in nonviolent resistance, we should call on our media to cover the nonviolent resistance that is already going on.

At the same time we must emphasize that engaging in nonviolent resistance or having a charismatic leader is not a prerequisite for freedom. If we are to believe that freedom and self-determination are basic human rights, we should not demand that any people prove that they deserve their freedom. To do so would suggest that some peoples are of a subhuman sort that must jump through certain hoops to obtain "human" status. Freedom is a right, whether one engages in violent resistance, nonviolent resistance, or no resistance at all.

African-Americans deserved freedom even before Martin Luther King was born. India should not have needed Gandhi to prove that they deserved freedom and independence.

Conversely, the choice of a people's tactics should not determine whether they are entitled to freedom. The existence of an armed wing within the African National Congress that targeted civilians (including children) did not mean that the black South Africans became "unworthy" of freedom. The Watts riots and similar riots of the 1960s were a self-destructive manifestation of the hopelessness and frustration incurred upon African-Americans by the white establishment. Such sudden acts of violence did not negate the African-American right to freedom.

It is only in the eyes of the privileged, the eyes of those already free, and for those whose heritage is one of colonialism and conquest, that the legitimacy of another people's struggle is contingent on employing "inoffensive" tactics—tactics photogenic to the Western sense of decency. Even then legitimacy does not translate to support, as evidenced by the lack of media coverage for Palestinian nonviolent resistance.



My point is not to devalue the power of nonviolent resistance. Rather we must distinguish between the hypocrisy of those who call for nonviolent resistance from the pulpit or the armchair, and those who actively engage in nonviolent resistance in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Kiss me, I hate Sharon

Those who engage in any type of solidarity work should take their cues from Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." King's letter of 1963 was a response to several white clergy in Alabama who had issued a statement criticizing "outsiders" such as King for traveling to Birmingham and encouraging nonviolent direct action. To the clergy such "extreme" actions would "incite hatred and violence." Their solution was moderation; they favored resolution in the courts and through "honest and open negotiations of racial issues in our area."

King's response was to denounce the white clergy for what they truly were—condescending white men who feigned solidarity but hoped to maintain the status quo; men who felt that the grievances of "the Negro" could be settled through the establishment rather than by resisting the establishment.

Throughout the Palestine solidarity movement in the US, and certainly in Olympia, we have people who operate like the white clergy. But rather than being white moderates, they are Jewish Zionist moderates. They like to think of themselves as progressives, and they imagine themselves holding a true balance, like the scales of liberty, between the Israeli and the Palestinian sides.

The rhetoric of these moderates is so common that one can recite it with little variance. It goes like this: "I don't like Sharon, either. And I think the settlements should go. But you—you're going too far. You're anti-Israel!"

They qualify their statements with denunciations of Ariel Sharon, which establishes their progressive credentials. In truth Ariel Sharon is not a difficult man to hate. They also support the removal of settlements and the establishment of a Palestinian state, but for reasons that barely confer them with the title "progressive." For the Jewish moderate, the occupation must end not out of true concern for Palestinian life and justice, but rather because it makes Israel look bad, and too many Arabs living in Israel pose a "demographic threat."

Their place in the Palestine solidarity movement is disruptive. As moderates they see themselves as the *reasonable* progressives, hence anyone further left of them is an extremist. Indeed anyone further left is most certainly a supporter of Arafat and suicide bombings. From their imagined progressive pedestal, they feel they have the proper qualifications to denounce the extreme leftists and to bring the Palestine–Israel issue into proper perspective, while at the same time believing that they are immune to charges of being right-wing. Quite often it is the perception that the left is too anti-Israel, hence antisemitic, that inspires them to become actively involved in the conflict. They hope to co-opt the Palestine solidarity movement and tone down the level of criticism hurled against the Jewish state. Indeed only they know how to talk about Israel.

It is only in the eyes of the privileged, the eyes of those already free, and for those whose heritage is one of colonialism and conquest, that the legitimacy of another people's struggle is contingent on employing "inoffensive" tactics—tactics photogenic to the Western sense of decency.

These fake progressives frame their own moderate criticism of Israel as the ideal. That is, criticism that doesn't upset the status quo (Israel) too much. They mistake their moderation for even-handedness, since Israel has a little to be blamed for and a lot to be praised for, while the Palestinians have a lot to be blamed for and little to be praised for. It evens out.

But we should be clear: Moderation is nothing to be proud of. A moderate cannot call for an end to segregation or an end to Apartheid. The moderate is only capable of criticizing the symptoms. To go further, to criticize the system itself, is to infringe upon the benefits that the moderate reaps from the status quo, and that is going too far.

That is also how King saw the white moderate who pretended to be assisting the civil rights movement: "I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action'; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a 'more convenient season.' Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

The moderate Jew is ready to feel "anguish" over the conflict, but not ready to say, "Not in my name." Indeed the moderate will take every opportunity to mention just how much "anguish" they feel about what is happening, but in the end it accounts for nothing. (In the self-congratulatory parlance of the conflict, Jews feel "anguish," while Arabs feel "rage.")

The moderate Jews, like King's moderate whites, are a stumbling block in the struggle for a free Palestine. It's like the old Israeli military expression of "shoot and cry"; all the crying does not absolve the shooting of a person, and it is actually perverse to congratulate oneself for feeling remorse. The Israeli refuseniks have a better expression: "We don't shoot, we don't cry, and we don't serve in the occupied territories."

Telepathic antisemitism

Among the local Jewish community, there was a significant number who began suspecting that Olympia's activist scene was tainted with antisemitism. This "antisemitism" first manifested in demonstrations against the Iraq war, when speakers called for an end to Is-

raeli occupation and when activists held Palestinian flags and wore checkered kafiyyehs (Middle Eastern scarves). Although there was no tangible evidence of hatred against Jews, many Jews could not shake off the feeling that those kafiyyehs were being directed against them.

The situation exacerbated, supposedly, when Rachel Corrie was killed in Rafah on March 16 last year. An antiwar candlelight vigil scheduled that evening was overtaken by Corrie's death. A couple of attendees complained in a letter to *The Olympian* that the antiwar vigil had transformed into a "divisive" "anti-Israel" rally. They provided no tangible evidence of anything remotely "anti-Israel" or "divisive" at the vigil, but a news article that appeared on the KOMO News website that day provided a clue. The article was headlined, "Olympia Woman Killed In Anti-Israel Demonstration." Apparently it didn't take much to be "anti-Israel."

Jews who feel this way need to understand that the left's criticism of Israel is not an attempt to shame Jews or make them feel guilty (unless they're supporting Israeli atrocities, which is a different matter). Jews should be free to take pride in their identity. However if that identity means taking pride in Israel, then one would hope that they would also take some responsibility for Israel's actions in the Occupied Territories. Such an expectation is no more demanding than the expectation that Americans who take pride in their country should also acknowledge atrocities committed in the name of the United States.

If we are to believe that freedom and self-determination are basic human rights, we should not demand that any people prove that they deserve their freedom.

An American Jew who feels attacked by criticism of Israeli policies is similar to the straight, white male who feels attacked by affirmative action and multiculturalism. Rather than proclaiming antisemitism, the white man cries about reverse discrimination. In both cases the problem is that the person sees other people empowering themselves and imagines that they themselves are being disempowered in the process. Our white man interprets affirmative action and multiculturalism as attempts to shame him or make him feel guilty for being straight, white and male.

Don't mention the "P" word—and besides, they don't exist

Many critical Jews are obsessed with reading between the lines, with identifying coded hatred of Jews by non-Jews and by "self-hating Jews." When someone calls for an end to the Israeli occupation, what they really mean is Israel doesn't have the right to exist. When they say "free Palestine," they're actually glorifying suicide bombers or swearing allegiance to Arafat. When they call for human rights, they're actually spewing anti-Israel hatred.

We should not accept that the word "Palestinian" is controversial. Some may wet their pants at its mere utterance, but the Palestinians are a people, and others will have to live with that fact.

The term "pro-Palestinian" however is meaningless, except that it is often used to imply that one is "anti-Israel" or "anti-Jew." Those who supported the civil rights movement or opposed South African apartheid weren't labeled "pro-Black" or "anti-White." And of course the term "anti-Israel" is as meaningless as the term "anti-American."

When I criticize Israel, I do not need to qualify my criticisms by affirming Israel's "right to exist." After all I have never affirmed any country's "right to exist," and none of my actions can be reasonably construed to mean that I seek the destruction of Israel. When you are forced into making such affirmations, you are merely allowing others to reframe the context and essentially change the subject. It is not a matter of Israel's "right to exist." It's a matter of an essential right to freedom and self-determination.

To say that I like chocolate does not imply that I hate vanilla. And to criticize a child for torturing a cat is not the same as saying the child doesn't deserve to live.

When we call for Palestinian rights, we don't need to qualify it by saying that we oppose suicide bombings, just as when we fight for civil rights in the US we shouldn't need to qualify it by saying that we oppose black men raping white women. Such qualifications only reinforce racial stereotypes and allow others to reframe our struggle. I have never said anything in support of targeting civilians (which is conducted more by the Israeli side), so why should I have to answer to it? We are not at fault for supporting the Palestinian cause; it is the other person who is at fault for thinking that all Palestinians are terrorists.

An American Jew who feels attacked by criticism of Israeli policies is similar to the straight, white male who feels attacked by affirmative action and multiculturalism.

The goal of any progressive movement is not to make anyone *feel* better about their insecurities, and my role is not to serve any insecure members of an ethnic or religious group.

Fear of a black planet

The idea of a free Palestine is as frightening to the Israel-first crowd as the idea of free African-Americans were to the segregationist crowd: It is the fear of savages overrunning the country. Samantha Shapiro voiced such racist concerns in a 2002 cover story for the *Seattle Times*, which was then picked up by the supposedly progressive AlterNet. According to Shapiro, the left should be wary of supporting Palestinians because "they will end up in your backyard," a sentiment often expressed with equal foreboding by your typical Archie Bunker xenophobe. But since Shapiro wasn't referring to Mexicans or "boat people," but rather about Palestinians, her comments were fit to print in the *Seattle Weekly* and AlterNet.

What Public Enemy expressed as "fear of a black planet" is for many Jews the "fear of a Palestinian state." It is this kind of fear that makes it acceptable to claim that Arabs pose a "demographic threat" to Israel's democracy, or that any Palestinian state would have to serve the needs of Israeli security—essentially a sub-state that would act as a buffer zone to keep Israelis feeling secure.

Short of supporting Israel with the enthusiasm of Jerry Falwell, nothing we can do is enough to appease Jewish insecurities. The sight of kafiyyehs, the Palestinian flag, the mere mention of the word "Palestine" or "end the Israeli occupation" is enough to make some Jews feel that Krystallnacht is around the corner. When we call for an end to the Israeli occupation, we mean just that: *an end to the Israeli occupation*. It is not a call for antisemitic violence. Nor do we need to tone down our call. How would you tone down a call for an end to Israeli occupation anyway?

Imagine if the civil rights movement toned down its calls for equality because white southerners were feeling uncomfortable. Imagine fair labor activists toning down their discussions of sweatshops to ensure that Gap shoppers don't feel too uncomfortable.

This does not discount the fact that many Jews genuinely feel uncomfortable, nor does it disparage the long history of Jewish suffering and persecution that has engendered such discomfort. But discourse cannot end at the point of discomfort or else we all remain permanently insecure.

Issues of race and identity are indeed uncomfortable subjects, but that is all the more reason to bring it out in the open, rather than keeping it quiet, as has been encouraged in the Olympia community. When activists are too quick to pander to Jewish insecurities, it does no one any service.

As with rape and incest, keeping such issues out of the spotlight and silencing those who speak about it only allow the problems to perpetuate rather than make it go away. Issues of identity—and not the validity of criticizing Israel—are what require discussion because it gets to the heart of the problem that some within the Jewish community have with activists today.

It Must Come Tumbling Down

Land-grab wall or security fence, Israel's new project is a barrier to Mideast peace

Ayed Morrar

[Originaly Published on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 by the Globe & Mail (Canada)]

From the West Bank's olive groves to the hearing that continues in a Hague courtroom, Palestinians are struggling against the wall Israel is erecting. In my West Bank village of Budrus, we need the support of people from around the world who care about human rights. Our non-violent resistance to the barrier's construction is one example of Palestinians' effort to stop the theft of our land, protect our olive trees, and move freely between our own towns and cities. The International Court of Justice continues today to examine these concerns, and the legality of Israel's barrier.

When Israeli construction crews began destroying our olive trees in November, schoolgirls left their chemistry books and old men marched with their sons to face the bulldozers and the soldiers. Forgetting political differences, our whole village showed up for demonstrations, often led by children carrying banners and women marching and chanting. In dozens of non-violent demonstrations since November, we've faced Israeli soldiers with only our signs, flags, and songs.

We have also planted olive tree saplings donated by the international Jewish organization Rabbis for Human Rights, to remind the Israelis that we will not surrender our land, our homes or our future. The soldiers often respond with tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets, and, in one instance, with live ammunition. I often claim that in our struggle against Israel's apartheid wall, "It is forbidden for us to tire" — a common view here in Budrus.

Budrus is home to 1,200 Palestinians, and is one of nine villages in this area that will be completely encircled by two branches of the barrier. We will lose 20 per cent of our land to the construction of the fence, and 3,000 olive trees will be destroyed; some dating back to Roman times. This barrier, promoted as a security measure, will force many of us to leave our homes. Without their land Budrus's farming families will be unable to survive. Many will also be unable to find jobs or afford life in Ramallah, the nearest city.

This isn't just a problem for farmers. With only one gate through which the area's 25,000 people can pass, the already difficult journey around roadblocks and through checkpoints between our villages and Ramallah will be harder. Access to the city's hospitals and schools will be restricted. A sick man's illness and a student's studies won't wait for a gate to open.

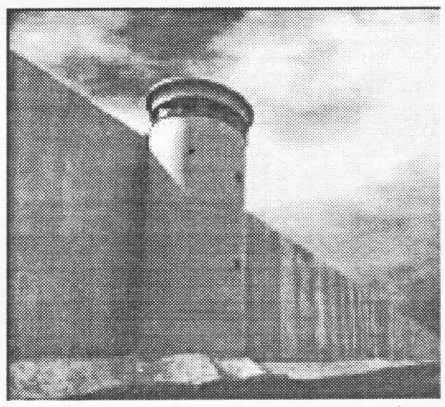
Many of the people in our village have been resisting the occupation their entire lives. We are tired of loss and violence, of seeing family members jailed and friends killed. We are tired also of the deaths of our neighbors, the Israelis. The people of Budrus have chosen non-violent resistance because we've seen enough blood and believe that violence is the root of fighting, not its solution.

Resisting a powerful occupying force requires many sacrifices. I myself was arrested Jan. 14 at night. The soldiers took me from my family and my home without giving me time to put on shoes.

In the military jeep I met my brother Na'im, who also was in handcuffs. We had planned a big demonstration for the next day, and the soldiers assumed our arrest would discourage the village. Yet during my eight days in prison, our village held two peaceful demonstrations. Although I was released after international pressure, Na'im continued to be held. He was released Thursday after 35 days when an Israeli judge ruled that the army had misled the court and that Na'im should not be imprisoned for peaceful protest activities.

Many Palestinian prisoners are not so fortunate, spending years without seeing their families and their home. Na'im's welcome home included not only greeting his family and his friends, as is our tradition, but greeting the entire village when they turned up for Monday's peaceful demonstration.

It is not easy when someone else decides your future. Every day, we fear the Israeli jeeps will drive through the village announcing curfew. Curfew means the bulldozers have begun destroying our olive groves once again.



Yet we are prepared to defend what is ours. From the rooftops, families watch the construction vehicles drive slowly through the valley below. We wait until they pass our olive grove, and only then do we go on with our daily work. A friend of mine often says that Palestinians exist without living. We have spent our lives resisting Israel's occupation, which began in 1967, but it does not mean that our children must also live this way.

As Budrus and many other villages work non-violently to resist occupation, we call on the world for support. The court at the Hague and the international community must stop this wall so that Budrus's children have something to live for.

Ayed Morrar, who lives in Budrus, is a leading voice in the Popular Committee Against the Wall.

International Court of Justice Hears Case Against The Israeli 'Apartheid' Wall

[Originaly Published Wednesday, February 25, 2004 by xinhuanet.com]

The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) ended Wednesday its three-day public hearings on Israel's separation wall but no date was given to announce its rulings.

Declaring a close to proceedings, the court's president, Chinese judge Shi Jiuyong, said that "a date and time for the court to announce its rulings" would be set later.

During the three-day hearings, a total of 15 states and interest parties, including Palestine, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), gave their oral presentations on this case, which was boycotted by the Israeli government.

Israel has consistently rejected the ICJ's competence in the case, arguing the court should not rule on what it regards as a purely political issue. Israel also says the wall keeps suicide bombers out of the Jewish state.

On the last day of the hearings, both the Arab League and the OIC were highly critical of the project.

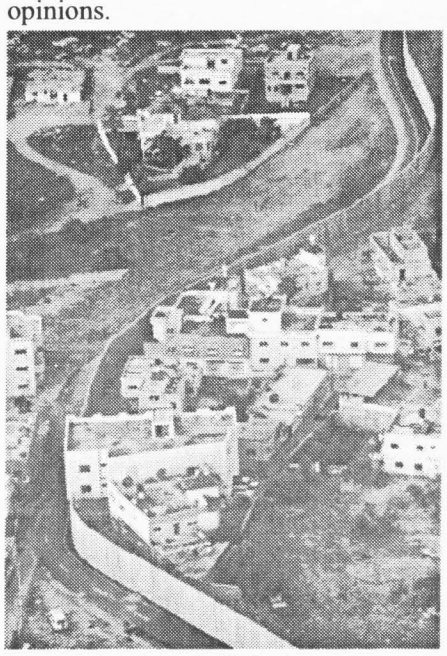
"The effects of the wall are many, but all negative. It is an affront to international law and adds to the suffering of the Palestinian people," said the Arab League's counsel, Michael Bothe.

He said the tribunal should issue a firm ruling that the barrier must be destroyed, that confiscated lands be returned and that compensation be paid.

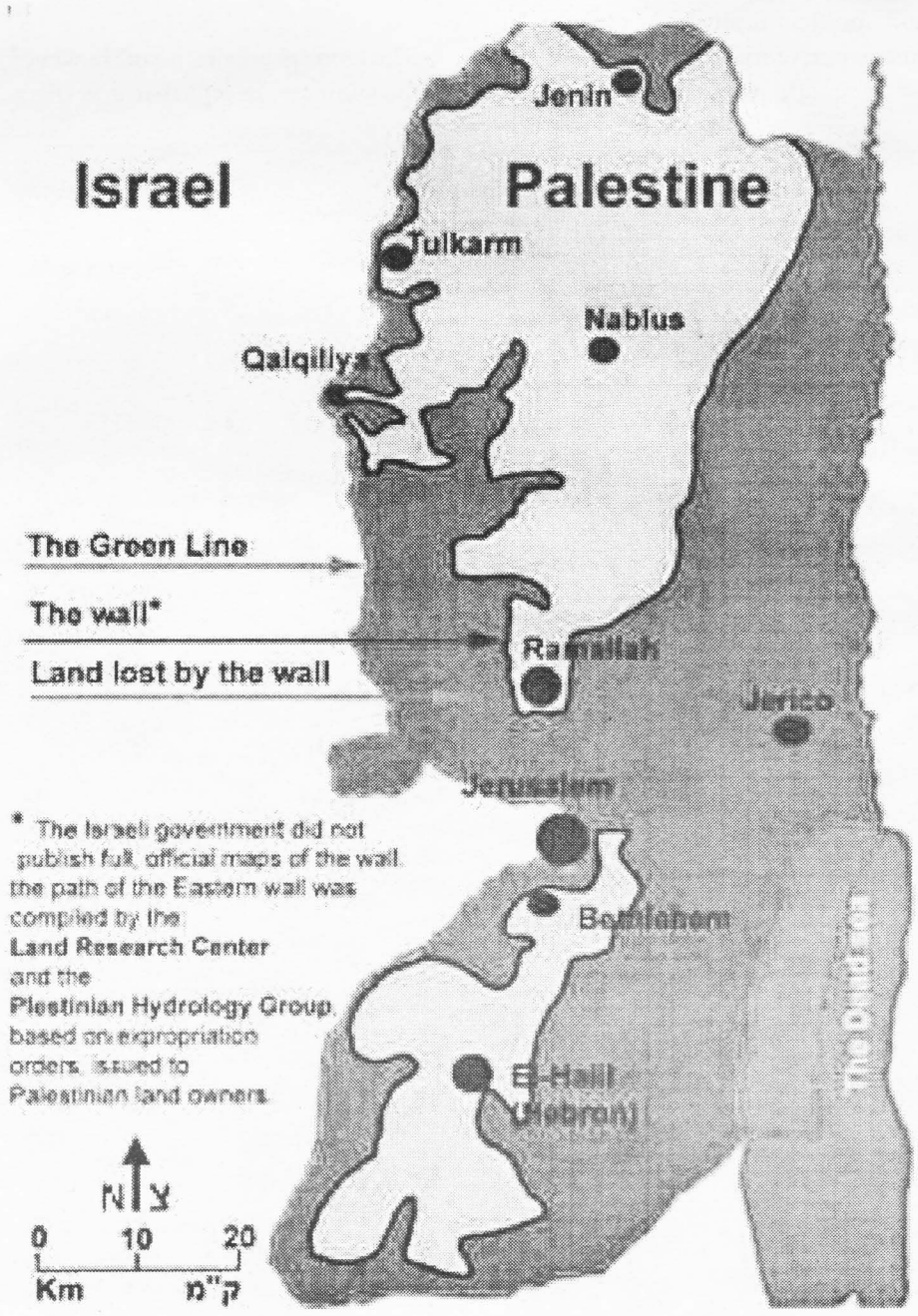
The court ruling - if one is made - is not expected for several months and will not be binding. However, it is widely believed that the ruling would have great symbolic importance.

Earlier in December, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to request the ICJ to give its advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall on the Palestinian lands.

Established in 1946, the ICJ is the United Nations' highest judiciary body, set up to deal with conflicts between states. The court can also issue advisory opinions on the legality of certain matters. So far the ICJ has issued 24 such opinions.



An aerial view shows the Wall, which annexes parts of the West Bank to Israel, in Baqa El Gharbiya, February 17, 2004. (Photo by Nir Elias 2/18/04).



US Soldier Seeks Refugee Status in Canada

Jonathan Franklin

US army private Jeremy Hinzman fought in Afghanistan and considers himself a patriot. But when his unit was ordered to Iraq, he refused to go and embarked on a radical journey that could make legal history.

Private first class Hinzman left the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, taking his wife and son to Canada. Officially, he is AWOL (absent without leave), and, instead of fighting insurgents, he is battling the US military in the Canadian courts.

This month Pte Hinzman, 25, filed legal papers to become the first US soldier objecting to the Iraq war to be granted refugee status in Canada. His case is expected to be a test of new Canadian immigration laws and the country's traditional role of accepting refugees from the US military.

An estimated 250 Americans every year seek refugee status in Canada, the vast majority making mental health claims, according to Jeffrey House, a Toronto criminal defence lawyer who represents Pte Hinzman.

"This is the first time a soldier from the Iraq war is seeking protection. He does not want to fight in Iraq and he will do any lawful thing to stay in Canada."

If he returns to the US, Pte Hinzman could be prosecuted as a deserter, according to Sergeant Pam Smith, a spokes woman for the 82nd Airborne. "We don't have time to go and track down people who go awol," she told the Associated Press. "We're fighting a war."

On the telephone from Toronto, Pte Hinzman said: "I signed up to defend my country, not carry out acts of aggression."

He hopes other soldiers will refuse to serve in Iraq and come to Canada: "I think I am the first, but I encourage others to do the same. I do not want to sound seditious, but there is strength in numbers."

Pte Hinzman told the Fayetteville Observer that he had liked the subsidised housing and groceries offered by the army and the promises of money for college. "It seemed like a good financial decision," he said. "I had a romantic vision of what the army was."

From the start of basic training, he was upset by the continuous chanting about blood and killing, and what he called the dehumanisation of the enemy. "It's like watching some kind of scary movie, except I was in it," he said.

"People would just walk around saying things like 'I want to kill somebody'."

Human rights lawyers and religious counsellors in the US predict that the case is the start of a huge wave of protests and legal moves by military personnel and their families.

Volunteers at the GI Rights Hotline, a legal aid centre for soldiers, are receiving about 3,500 calls a month from military personnel looking to leave the armed forces.

With a growing number of dead and wounded, the Pentagon is struggling to maintain troop levels in Iraq. Nearly 40% of those now deployed are national guard or reserve troops. "These guys are not going to re-enlist, that is for sure," said Giorgio DeShaun Ra'Shadd, a lawyer in Centennial, Colorado, who represents several military families. "Soldiers are fighting to get out of the service."

In late January the Pentagon cancelled retirement dates for an estimated 40,000 soldiers. This unilateral move postpones soldiers' return to civilian life.

Military families erupted in protest at the decision and immediately launched websites and demonstrations.

"Can the US president with the signature of a pen indenture tens of thousands of US citizens? That is the question we are now investigating," said Luke Hiken, a lawyer in San Francisco. "This is a tremendous militarisation of civilian families. Soldiers are now being asked to stay for two more years. This takes civilian families and turns them into military families."

Based on his work with US military personnel in Germany, Mr Hiken estimates that there are "thousands" of soldiers who want to escape from Iraq. "When they brought them home for vacation in the US, about 15%-20% simply never went back. They stayed with their families."

Pte Hinzman said his family was part of his reason for going awol.

"I vowed to myself, to my wife and son, that I would not go to Iraq. To me it was a war fought on false pretenses. Dr Blix [the former chief UN weapons inspector] went time and time again [to Iraq] and he said there are no weapons of mass destruction.

"They are exploiting the events of September 11, based on greed and our need for oil."

Jonathan Franklin writes for The Guardian of London.

Genetically Engineered DNA Found in Traditional Seeds

Study Has Implications for Trade, Organic Agriculture, Human Health

February 23, 2004

Washington, D.C.—The Union of Concerned Scientists today released a groundbreaking pilot study that found genetically engineered DNA is contaminating traditional seeds of three major U.S. crops. Seed contamination, if left unchecked, could disrupt agricultural trade, unfairly burden the organic industry, and allow hazardous materials into the food supply.

"This study shatters the presumption that at least one portion of the seed supply-that for traditional varieties of crops-is truly free of genetically engineered elements," said Dr. Margaret Mellon, Director of the Food and Environment Program at UCS and an author of the new study, *Gone to Seed: Transgenic Contaminants in the Traditional Seed Supply*. "The traditional seed supply is an agricultural treasure that must be preserved. The government should immediately follow up this study to determine the extent of contamination and the steps needed to protect this treasure."

The pilot study by UCS is the first to examine systematically whether genetically engineered (GE) crop varieties now widely adopted in the United States have contaminated the seed supply for crop varieties presumed not to contain GE elements. The seeds tested in the pilot study were for traditional varieties of corn, soybeans, and canola that have no history of genetic engineering. The tests were conducted for UCS by two commercial laboratories employing sensitive techniques capable of detecting specific sequences of DNA.

The degree of concern to attach to seed contamination depends on many factors, including the nature of the genes that are contaminating the seed supply and the levels at which they occur. That information awaits the further, more comprehensive tests recommended by UCS in its report. However, the study released today suggests that contamination is pervasive, especially in canola where one laboratory found six of the six traditional varieties tested contaminated with GE elements.

Most of the specific DNA sequences tested for in the study are found in popular GE varieties currently on the U.S. market. But there is no reason to believe that engineered DNA sequences detected in the study are the only ones moving into the traditional seed supply.

"Until we know otherwise, it is prudent to assume that engineered sequences originating in any crop, whether it was approved and planted commercially or just field tested, could potentially contaminate the seed supply," said Dr. Jane Rissler, a plant pathologist at UCS and the report's co-author. "Among the potential contaminants are genes from crops engineered to produce drugs, plastics, and vaccines."

Serious risks to human health could result if genes from pharmaceutical and industrial crops contaminate the seeds for food crops at a significant level. "Because growers and processors would not be aware of the contaminants, they would inadvertently sell them for food use-a back door to the food supply that must be closed," said Mellon.

The materials needed to detect such genes in molecular tests are not publicly available; therefore, it was not possible for UCS to test seeds for sequences from so-called "pharm crops." However, the report urges prompt action to protect seed production from these sources of contamination.

In addition, seed contamination makes it more difficult for U.S. exporters to assure Japan, South Korea, the European Union, and other export customers that grain and oilseed shipments do not contain unapproved GE crop varieties and to supply commodity products free of engineered sequences. Seed contamination also places an unfair burden on organic food production, an increasingly important sector of U.S. agriculture. Organic farmers depend on traditional seed varieties to meet organic standards and consumer demand. The contamination of traditional seeds hampers their ability to find the GE-free seed they need.

The UCS study is too limited to provide a reliable estimate of the levels of contamination across the seed supply. However, the data obtained in the study suggest a range of roughly 0.05 to 1% in the seeds tested. Calculations done as part of Gone to Seed illustrate that even a level as low as 0.1% could translate into hundreds of tons of contaminated corn and soybean seeds inadvertently planted on U.S. farms, or the equivalent of over 55,000 50-pound bags of seed.

"We must confront the reality of seed contamination now," said Rissler. "Not only must we worry about genes in approved varieties but we must be concerned about hundreds of other genes that have been field tested but whose identities are unknown to the public in many instances. Heedlessly allowing the contamination of the seed supply to continue may cause problems which cannot be easily remedied."

"While not completely reversible, with sufficient political will it is possible to look forward to sources of seeds that are substantially free of genetically engineered sequences," Mellon added. "But the government must act now."

UCS recommends eight steps to address seed contamination, including a government-sponsored, full-scale investigation into the extent and causes of seed contamination. The United States Department of Agriculture should also establish a reservoir of non-engineered seeds for major food and feed crops.

The new report is located °here.

Formed in 1969 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UCS is a nonprofit partnership of scientists and citizens combining rigorous scientific analysis, innovative policy development and effective citizen advocacy to achieve practical environmental solutions. UCS advocates evaluation of the risks and benefits of and alternatives to agricultural applications of biotechnology.

A Special Note to Organic Consumers

Some consumers might wonder if they should continue to buy organic products in light of the contamination of the seed supply documented in *Gone to Seed,* a new UCS report. Among the many valued features of organic food is the option to avoid genetic engineering.

UCS strongly encourages consumers to continue buying organic food. Yes, despite their best efforts, some organic producers may occasionally end up with products containing low levels of genetically engineered material. Organic farmers cannot avoid engineered pollen blowing into their fields and cannot readily detect genetically engineered contaminants in the seed they buy.

But the organic industry is working hard to control sources of contamination and organic products remain the best option by far for consumers who want to avoid genetically engineered food.

No one tries harder than organic producers to give American consumers choice in the marketplace. We urge you to continue to support them.

For mor information visit the UCS website http://www.ucsusa.org

Up Front: A Flicker of Hope

Jerome Johnson

Hi, folks. I'm back. I'd like to thank you for your patience while I've been off these pages (especially you, Ms. P.; thanks for hanging in there!). I've missed you. I've been attending to job and family affairs, but I just couldn't let another month pass without dropping a line. Hoo boy, it's a great time to be a pundit—even an amateur like me.

This election is really getting to be something. If you're a Democrat, sometimes you just don't know what to do. If you're an Independent you're waiting and seeing. If you're a Progressive, you've probably written off the whole thing because no matter who wins, there probably won't be a strong Progressive agenda.

But if you're unfortunate enough to be a Republican, you're probably pretty damned miserable, and I doubt you have any ideas on how to make things better. First, there's this war you and the president wanted so fast and so badly. I understand why you wanted it fast—you needed to get American forces firmly engaged and American business (Hallibuton & friends) firmly entrenched in Iraq before the heat of summer, and definitely before January 2004. It's close enough to the election as it is, and if you waited the American people might've figured this out. And opposition was growing both here and abroad—I bet that day of mass peace demonstrations around the world and the condemnation of many governments was more unsettling than you let on. Just because the US media didn't show the extent of the protest doesn't mean that it wasn't there, and I'm sure even your intelligence agencies could notice millions of people demonstrating for a single reason on the same day.

And you needed to get in there badly because of you're trapped in your conservative ideology. Fueled by fear and ignorance instead of reason, you swallowed every excuse the administration offered for war. You didn't think, just let yourself be scared to death because you blindly trust the president, because he's a Christian Republican who doesn't have sex with interns (at least as far as we know). So when Bush, Cheney, Wolfowitz & Rumsfeld claimed—with firmness—that they "knew" Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and that they "knew" where they were, you believed it without a shred of proof. When the war began we kept looking skyward, wondering when the Green Berets and SEALs would land on the WMD bases, capture them for all the world to see on Fox News.

Well, now we're finding out that Iraq didn't have any WMDs—they were probably destroyed years ago, just as the US demanded. The administration believed "intelligence" which was really bullshit from Iraqi opposition groups. These groups would say anything to paint Saddam Hussein in the worst possible light, because if they could get the ideologues in Washington to overthrow Saddam for them, they'd be the new rulers of Iraq after the occupation. Now, the administration is saying the same thing the UN teams said—"we're looking, we need time."

I remember the howls of derision from the administration whenever UN inspectors used to say this. Soon after a smirking official would come on the news, calling the UN inspectors weak for trying to do a good job and even, on occasion, inferring that they were Saddam's sympathizers. Even if not they couldn't do as good a job searching as the U.S. military, because everyone knows the US military is the best there is at everything. But the UN teams had the legitimate support of the world community, they weren't trying to turn Iraq into a capitalist "democratic" society and out-source the country's resources to Halliburton, Bechtel et. al. Maybe that's why the UN teams operated in relative safety and hardly anyone shot at them, while the U.S. is losing people every day and no end in sight.

When the WMD excuse was shredded, the administration's attempts to justify the war became even more pitiful.

When the WMD excuse was shredded, the administration's attempts to justify the war became even more pitiful. The next rationale was that even if Saddam didn't have any WMD now, he DID have them in the past and he DID use them against his own people. He was a bad guy, an evil mass murderer without whom the world is better off, so the war was right anyway.

The trouble is, two wrongs don't make a right—especially when you're supposed to be the Good Guys. This does not change the fact that the U.S. launched an illegal, premeditated, unprovoked attack on a nation unable to defend itself. Even now I wonder why officials continue to embarrass themselves with the ludicrous claim that somehow a landlocked, impoverished nation with no air force and no navy and no worldwide logistics could pose a threat to history's most powerful armed forces, those of the U.S.

So now the administration is trying to get its troops and its ass out of Iraq, and quick—the summer election cycle starts in six weeks. Trouble is, those damned ungrateful Iraqis keep attacking their liberators and won't accept the government the Great White Father in Washington keeps trying to impose on them. No one understands why the Iraqis can't play ball, like that nice fellow Karzai—the President of Kabul—in Afghanistan.

On the home front, things ain't much better. Howard Dean flamed out, and now Republicans are facing their worst election scenario: a skilled, experienced, telegenic Democrat who wasn't just in the service during Vietnam. John Kerry was an officer (more senior than Bush) who was in combat, saved his men, was wounded—and decorated. Even if Bush somehow fabricates his National Guard record, he won't be able to fabricate a Purple Heart and Silver Star to match Kerry's. Bush planned to run on the war and national security months ago, when he was licking his chops at the idea of running against Dean, who is inexperienced in security policy.

Now, Bush is reduced to the old GOP tricks: scaring the hell out of us (of course only the GOP can save us!) and using ads and rhetoric to try to paint Kerry as a wild-eyed liberal who will take away your guns and let queers marry. Well, that don't scare me. Kerry owns guns himself—he is a hunter—and I think it'd be cool if anyone who wants to marry, marries. Whenever I hear the bigoted "arguments" against gay marriage, they sound hauntingly familiar: "It's just not natural." "God didn't intend it." "HOW would I explain to my kids?" They are the SAME "reasons" used by racists—not long ago, in my lifetime—to back up their laws and prohibitions against marriage between black people and white people.

In Iran, voters go to the polls for parliamentary elections. In Haiti, another uprising threatens the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In Washington, DC, the Kerry Express is shifting into warp speed. And in Thurston County an entire community celebrates the death of the conference center, a horrible boondoggle that would have meant financial catastrophe.

Statement to the County Commissioners

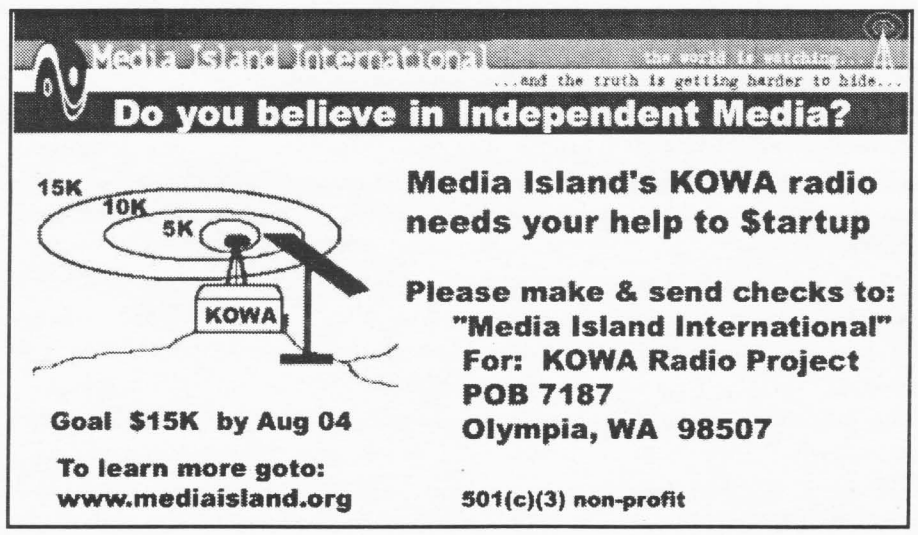
Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you in person. My name is Drew Hendricks, and I urge you today to consider your position in history.

The United States has twice led the western world in its per-capita incarceration. Most recently, we gained this status in the mid-1990's as our state and federal prison systems swelled beyond the 1 million mark. Since then, we have surpassed 2 million imprisoned persons. Our lead continues to grow, though not as quickly as it had before. Things are beginning to turn around as more people realize we cannot go on like this.

The previous time we suffered this dubious honor, the year was 1864. We lost more of our young men in that single war than in all of our battles since then. But when we were done with that slaughter, slavery was ended and our record position was lost for more than one hundred and twenty years. Yet we still bear the scars as a nation.

Please consider that the proposed 1280 bed jail you have put before us is an expensive, 20th century solution with its feet of clay stuck firmly in the past. We have begun to see the light at the end of our current nightmare. You can be part of that light, and your names can be remembered for the vision you embraced today, if only you will admit a small error and withdraw this proposal.

Or you can continue to build larger and larger records and be known for something else entirely. The choice is yours.



Worldwide Anti-war Protests Influenced Democratic Party Candidates

Jonathan Coleman

The departure of Howard Dean from the field of contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination effectively means there are now only four candidates left. Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton are still in the race, but the most likely candidate will be either John Edwards or John Kerry.

Both these candidates voted for the quasi-illegal 2002 resolution (some say it was a violation of the war powers act, but that's a subject for another article) authorizing Bush to go to war with Saddam Hussein. Even so, our choice come November promises to be a better one than if say, Joe Lieberman had won the nomination.

The speech Kerry gave on April 22, 1971, at age 27, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is as inspiring today as it must have been then. He asked: "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam? How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?" Kerry made a mistake with his war resolution vote last year, and has yet to own up to it. I hold out hope that if he is elected president, the John Kerry of 33 years ago will again make himself heard.

Edwards attracted my attention some months ago with his admonishment of Howard Dean, after Dean – a wealthy New England governor from Park Avenue – tried to say he wanted to bring southern white males (the type of people "with confederate flags on the back of their pickup trucks") back to the Democratic Party. Dean was trying to say the right thing, I thought, but Edwards – himself a southerner, with working class roots, spoke with authority. In January I heard Edwards' Iowa stump speech, and I like what I heard. He talked about growing up the son of a mill worker, about beating expectations (as a trial lawyer, and then in his run for senate, as a Democrat, in Republican North Carolina), and about the growing number of Americans living in poverty. I listened carefully for comments about the United States policy vis-à-vis Israel and Palestine, and found the knee jerk "I'll support Israel no-matter-what" rhetoric espoused by Dean and Kerry to be refreshingly absent. In February he began talking extensively about free-trade; specifically regarding his opposition to agreements such as NAFTA, CAFTA, and GATT. I'm excited that there's still someone in the race (with an actual chance of winning the nomination) who is taking these positions.

As mentioned, both Edwards and Kerry voted for the Iraq war resolution. They also both voted against the $87 billion supplemental appropriation bill to pay for the war and the continued US occupation, and they have become more critical of the Bush administration's policies as the occupation has dragged on and the US body count rises. This is a good thing. It seems that in the past year the Democratic party, at least rhetorically, has been pushed at least a little bit to the left. It may just be talk, but in the so-called post-modern world we now live in, talk matters. The Bush administration began making "the case" for war in September, 2002. At first, that was just "talk." Now there are over 10,000 dead Iraqis, over 500 US service members have lost their lives, and tens of thousands of "weekend warriors" (young men and women who signed up for the Guard thinking it would be a good way to pay for college) find themselves thousands of miles from home, fighting for a cause that, as Buffalo Springfield said, "ain't exactly clear."

So what got the Democrats to take the socks out of their mouths? Contrary to the corporate media's spin (what Newsweek calls "Conventional Wisdom"), it wasn't Howard Dean. Dean, a conservative governor who cut welfare and medicare benefits to Vermont's poor, even in the midst of the "economic boom" of the '90s, just happened to put his finger to the wind and caught a whiff of the anger and frustration so many Americans were feeling as Bush and his cohorts took us to war for the second time in as many years. Nor was there media coverage of body bags returning home from Iraq. Unlike during Vietnam, the media isn't allowed to show them, lest the public see all these dead US soldiers and their grieving families and ask, "what gives?" No, regarding the change in tone about US involvement in Iraq, the most important thing has been the massive worldwide protests.

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On February 15th last year, all over the world people took to the streets to voice their opposition to Bush's insane policy of "pre-emptive" warfare. Unfortunately, many of these first-time political activists were naïve in their understanding of how change happens in this country. They thought, surely this – the largest one-day demonstration, for anything, in the history of the world – would be enough to stop the war. It wasn't, and many people felt they had failed. The changing rhetoric of the Democrats shows they have not. New issues are now being discussed. The parameters of the debate have expanded, despite the corporate media, despite the Federal government trying to scare future would-be activists by trying to subpoena the records of university students involved with the planning of peace rallies (see: University Ordered to Turn Over Records on Anti-War Activists http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0207-07.htm). These protests have accomplished something: they have changed the rhetoric of the "establishment" Democratic candidates. That's not insignificant.

We can see the same thing at work in Edwards' anti-free-trade speeches. The fact that a Democrat with a realistic chance at capturing the nomination is even talking about the ill effects of NAFTA, GATT, etc. has everything to do with the WTO protests in Seattle four and a half years ago, and similar later protests around the world. When I hear John Edwards talk about the ill effects of free-trade, it makes me especially happy, because I know that the protests and political meetings I've gone to have accomplished something.

This March 20th there will be worldwide demonstrations commemorating the one-year anniversary of the second Bush-Saddam war. These rallies will be similar to those of last February 15th and promise to make our voices heard in Washington DC as well as in the state of Washington. As reported in last month's WIP-OMJP article, there are protest events planned in Olympia. See last month's article, check out our website at www.omjp.org and for national coverage see the United for Peace website at www.unitedforpeace.org. The Olympia events start at the State Capitol Tivoli fountain at noon. I encourage everyone reading this to attend, so we can continue the important task of transforming the world into one we'd all like to live in. We've only just begun.

*This column is sponsored by the **Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace**. OMJP is committed to building a society that meets the needs of all people, not one based on profit and economic values. We actively support movements that challenge corporate-sponsored globalization, and those that further racial, gender and economic equality. Our efforts are focused on working in solidarity and in coalition with individuals and groups on a local, regional, national, and global level. Our meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Olympia Community Center, located at 222 Columbia Way. We welcome new people to our meetings. Views expressed in these columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of the entire group.*

In Contempt
Kevin Moore ©2004
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HEY, DEMOCRAT! ARE YOU PSYCHED UP FOR THIS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?
AWW YEAH! BUSH IS GOIN' DOWN! WE GOT A WAR HERO!
DATED DEAN, MARRIED KERRY
SO THIS GUY EXCITES YOU..?
FOUR SCORE AND 7 MINUTES AGO, I PROCLAIMED A POSITION ON A VITAL POLITICAL ISSUE THAT BRAVELY CONTRADICTS A POSITION I TOOK ELSEWHERE - YET SO VAGUELY IT LEAVES A SUBTLE IRRITATION IN YOUR BRAIN.
THE REAL DEAL
IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
HEY, LOOK: THE CURRENT PREZ LIED TO GET US INTO WAR, LIED ABOUT HIS OWN MILITARY SERVICE, LIED ABOUT TAX CUTS FOR WORKING PEOPLE - I MEAN, HE EITHER LIED OR HE'S OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY - NO MATTER, ANYONE IS BETTER THAN BUSH!
LET'S NOT ELECT HIM AGAIN
ONCE AGAIN— ANOTHER ROUND OF LOWERED EXPECTATIONS!
THAT'S WHY I'M RUNNING AGAIN.
AGH!! GO AWAY!

Green Party Update

Drew Hendricks

In the past year, the Green Party:

Helped elect two Olympia City Council members; Laura Ware, and TJ Johnson, (both Greens)!

The Green Party of South Puget Sound (GPoSPS) gave $300 to TJ Johnson's successful campaign to regain his Olympia City Council seat. In the spring, TJ hosted a training session for his campaign workers, which was quite helpful in building our electoral toolkit. We also gave Laura Ware $100, the limit she set for all donations to her campaign. Laura's campaign was the least expensive of any of the City Council candidates, and she won by the largest margin. Grassroots campaigns really do win! Over 40 volunteers "doorbelled" precincts for the two campaigns, in a combined effort over several weekends. Many of those volunteers were Greens.

After the election, the Green Party hosted an after-election forum for people to learn from the experiences gained in the season. It was a wonderful potluck dinner and a positive, productive exchange of information and ideas. It was also a nice chance to thank everyone who helped win the election, and we videotaped it for future use.

Helped stop the Con/Artist Center in Olympia!

The Green Party helped with campaign support for the Public Funds for Public Purposes (PFPP) campaign to get a vote on the Convention and Arts Center the Olympia City Council wanted to build. Although we never quite reached our goal of forcing a vote, the plan was officially killed by the Olympia City Council in early 2004. We are still helping PFPP with database services during their follow-up effort to open the Public Facilities District to public process. We might be calling for volunteer work in this project in February or March of 2004.

Helped pass an Olympia City Council Resolution against the so-called USA-PATRIOT Act (with the ACLU's leadership).

Green Party members were key organizers within the ACLU of Thurston County, which passed a unanimous resolution condemning the USA-PATRIOT Act and re-affirming civil liberties in our community. The resolution was the latest in a series of hundreds of cities across the country to reject the act and require the Federal authorities to notify us of their activities under the act in our area. The ACLU has not finished with this issue in our area, and plans are underway to repeat our success in another local governing body this year.

Obtained the complete Thurston County Voters Registration Database Walking lists and labels are available to all GPoSPS members working on Green Party projects of any kind. These are basic organizing tools which community members can use in campaigns at all levels of government, and even for non-governmental political work. The challenge over the next few months will be to continue to identify our political base, so that we can mobilize when we need to turn out to defeat George Bush in the November elections. The Electoral Working Group is also working with a few members of the Democratic Party in Thurston County to create a working relationship for the upcoming election cycle. In addition, EWG is lending campaign support to Thurston Jail Alternatives, as part of their effort to defeat the May 18th bond for a massive new county jail in Tumwater. We have several platform planks which require that we oppose the bond, unless it includes explicit funding for mental health programs and restorative justice within the new structure. See the web site for more details.

Published a member's newsletter every month to let you know what we've been up to, as we went along.

If you've been a member for a while, you probably appreciate the fact that we've been more consistent with news of our activities and our plans. This is primarily due to the hard work of our new Publications Working Group, which put the newsletter in the hands of more than one person for the first time this past year. The next step is to consider what we will do for our external communications, now that the Jade Lantern has lost steam. Perhaps you have some energy to add to the Publications Working Group!

Go to www.greenparty-sps.org . Join Us!

Chris Stegman

(360) 705-3528

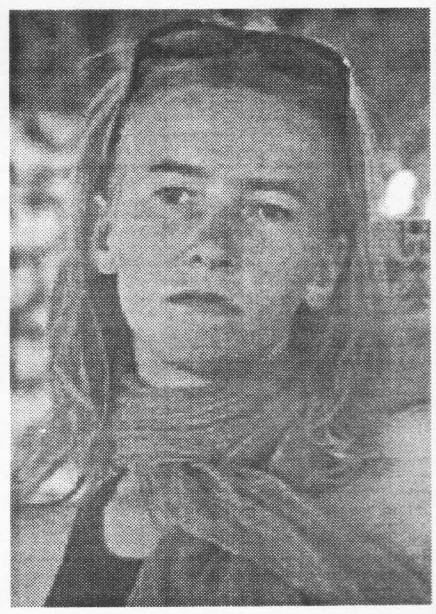
OLYMPIA PAINTING EXCHANGE

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR

OLYMPPEO09QA FREE ESTIMATES

Celebrate Rachel Corrie

Tuesday, March 16 is the one-year anniversary of Rache Corrie's death. There will be a community gathering to celebrate her life and contributions, both in Olympia and around the world. The event will be at the Olympia Ballroom, above the Urban Onion restaurant, from 6:30 to 8:30p. There will be speakers, music, and the opportunity to construct white peace doves to carry in the Procession of the Species. Following the event there will be a march and candlelight vigil.



Do you believe in Independent Media?

Media Island International is in the process of building **KOWA Radio;** an Olympia,WA based low power FM radio station. Activist and community members will be able to further the mission of Media Island International through the access of KOWA radio. Currently, we are busy raising funds for this project in order to acquire the needed solar power and radio transmission equipment.

The mission of Media Island International is to act as a resource and networking center for individuals, organizations and movements working on social justice, economic democracy, ecological sustainability and peace. We gather, evaluate and distribute under published information on critical issues. The truth is getting harder to hide.

The broadcast signal will be localized to the Thurston County area carried over 106.5 FM using call letters KOWA.

We have a goal of raising $15,000.00 by August 2004 and are suggesting at least a $20.00 minimum donation∞If you can give more it is greatly appreciated. We encourage community groups, matching donors, and individuals to become vested in this effort and commit to this project by donating to it. Along with your donation you are invited to include your suggestion for what type(s) of information you would like to hear broadcast over KOWA.

Please help Media Island International realize this part of its vision by donating to this project.

Make checks payable to "Media Island International"

For: KOWA Radio Project

Please send donations to:

KOWA Radio Project
c/o Media Island International
P.O.B. 7187
Olympia, WA 98507

Media Island International is a non-profit 501(c)(3)

www.mediaisland.org

If you would like a receipt for your taxes please indicate this with your donation along with return mailing address.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT!

To inquire further about this project contact: Taryn Gearhart 360-456-5586

(Building Low-income Power: TULIP Credit Union is open, Continued)

refinance your car loans to TULIP. Imagine if all the poor and progressive minded in Thurston County held their car loans at TULIP — it would be a microcosm of the financial power that the low-income possess.

Members of the Olympia Food Coop are also eligible to join TULIP as a way for all to participate in our efforts to fight poverty and increase wealth among the poor in our community. We want to bridge the gap between those who have more ability to save and borrow with those who have less. If you support the vision and goals of TULIP than you are welcome to join us. Who do you want your money to benefit, the shareholders in a bank or the low-income of your own community? Refinance your car loan with TULIP.

How you can help

1. JOIN – become a TULIP credit union member
2. GET A LOAN – borrow from TULIP, and pay it back on time. Refinance your existing car loan with TULIP. We offer competitive rates.
3. SAVE – make deposits or take out a CD and help us build a bigger and stronger credit union
4. SPEND – Use your TULIP debit card on all the purchases you were going to make anyway. TULIP earns income every time you use your debit card for a purchase. But remember, a debit card is like a checkbook and you have to have the money to pay for your purchase.

TULIP is now serving members at its branch located within the Olympia Food Coop's eastside location at 3111 Pacific Ave. Hours of operation are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11am-4pm. For more information on membership call 360-570-2292 during business hours.

Pat Tassoni is a board member of TULIP Cooperative Credit Union.

Global Day of Protest on the One-Year Anniversary of the Iraq War

The World Still Says NO to War,

March 20th

12 Noon, Olympia
State Capitol Trivoli Fountain
Military Veteran's Speakers
12:45, March
1:30, Peaceful Rally
Heritage Park

Not One More Day
Not One More Death
Not One More Deception

For more information on this Global day of action see, nationally www.unitedforpeace.org
locally www.omjp.org
Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace
OMJP, 867-6513

An Ode to the Dumpster Crew

By Long Hair David

I got home after doing my Street Outreach for the night.° As most of you who ride bikes know, a guy can get pretty damn hungry, especially on these cold nights.

It's the first of the month and my food stamps don't come in 'til the 3rd; ole Mother Hubbard's cupboards are bare. So I go into my kitchen to find something to eat. At this point I haven't eaten much all day and I'm about ready to eat the hind end°off a skunk. All that's left in the cupboard are a few cans of Progresso soup and some black beans; had black beans yesterday, good, and I have two loaves of bread that my friends from the dumpster crew left off for me. They had kicked down a food bag to me a few days before; a nice bag of potatoes, veggies, some bags of chocolates (yum), a few cookies that I ate yesterday. So I heat up some soup, and by now the bread has become just a little bit stale so I do as any decent hobo would - I stick that ole bread down in the soup and just let it soak there for awhile. Yum-mers! So I'm sitting here eating this soup and thinking about what a wonderful meal this is and that, in most third world countries, many people would die for a meal like this. And it dawns on me: "these dumpster crew kids rock!"

Sometimes I like to chew on good bread even after it's a bit on the stale side and it often makes me think of all the food this country wastes and how good this would taste if I only had some jam; I like to just keep chewing on it, and think of the fact that so many in the world don't have something as good and nutritious as this.

You should try it some time while reading a copy of George Orwell's "Down and Out in Paris and London" or Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath". I often like to curl up with a big hunk of some Blue Heron or some San Francisco Bakery; we're not talking supermarket Langendorf white bread here, kids, oh no. We're talking down-home heavy bread that takes some serious chewing.

When I first came to this town I used to work at Bread and Roses (B&R) and, as many of the staff did, we always got our bread from there; B&R always got lots of baked goods donated from both San Francisco and Blue Heron Bakeries. So for many years all the bread I ate came from B&R. Then one day I was shopping down at the Farmers Market and I bought a loaf of Blue Heron bread;° went for the good stuff - you know, the pre-sliced kind, 100% whole wheat. So I'm a wandering around the Market and I get a bit hungry, and slide me out a piece of bread to snack on, Wow-Wee Zow-Wee! So that's what it tastes like fresh, man oh man, that was the first time I had Blue Heron bread fresh out of the oven. Kids, I'm telling you, that stuff is really good when it's just minutes old, cooked that morning. Awesome stuff!° I had to laugh at my ole cheap ass for never before buying their wonderful bread fresh from the oven; I'm telling ya, kids, that stuff's the real dope!

Well, I think tomorrow I'm going to cook up them veggies and taters and make my own soup, and it's all thanks to those dumpster diving hoodlums, bless their pea-pickin' sweet hearts.

Want an expensive new jail?

The Costs of Mismanagment
~~If the May 18 jail bond issue passes,~~ your county property taxes will increase by over 40%, good for the next 20 years. The estimated $103 Million for Phase One is for construction only. It does not include operating costs or the costs of completing the construction in phases two and three. The total costs could exceed $200 million.

Why is the jail overcrowded?
Various figures are tossed around in order to confuse and scare the public and sell the need for a bigger jail. There is no disputing that the main jail is crowded. But what are the primary factors driving jail crowding?

The main 'players' are dragging their feet.

A recent report commissioned by the jail administration makes it clear that the cause and solutions for crowding are largely in the hands of the main system 'players. The report makes common sense and cost-effective recommendations which if implemented could reduce the jail population significantly while maintaining public safety.

Build a bigger jail "and they will come".

By the county's own estimates, when the new jail opens it will be nearly full from the start. Unless much needed system reforms are implemented criminal justice costs will continue to spiral out of control and taxpayers will be stuck with the bill.

On May 18, send officials a message that you want better criminal justice management, not higher taxes.

www.jailalternatives.org

School for Designing a Society

Olympia artists-in-residence-of-sorts, sorted artists, and teachers and students from the School for Designing a Society visit Olympia March 8-12.

The School for Designing a Society, in its twelfth year, is based in Urbana, Illinois.

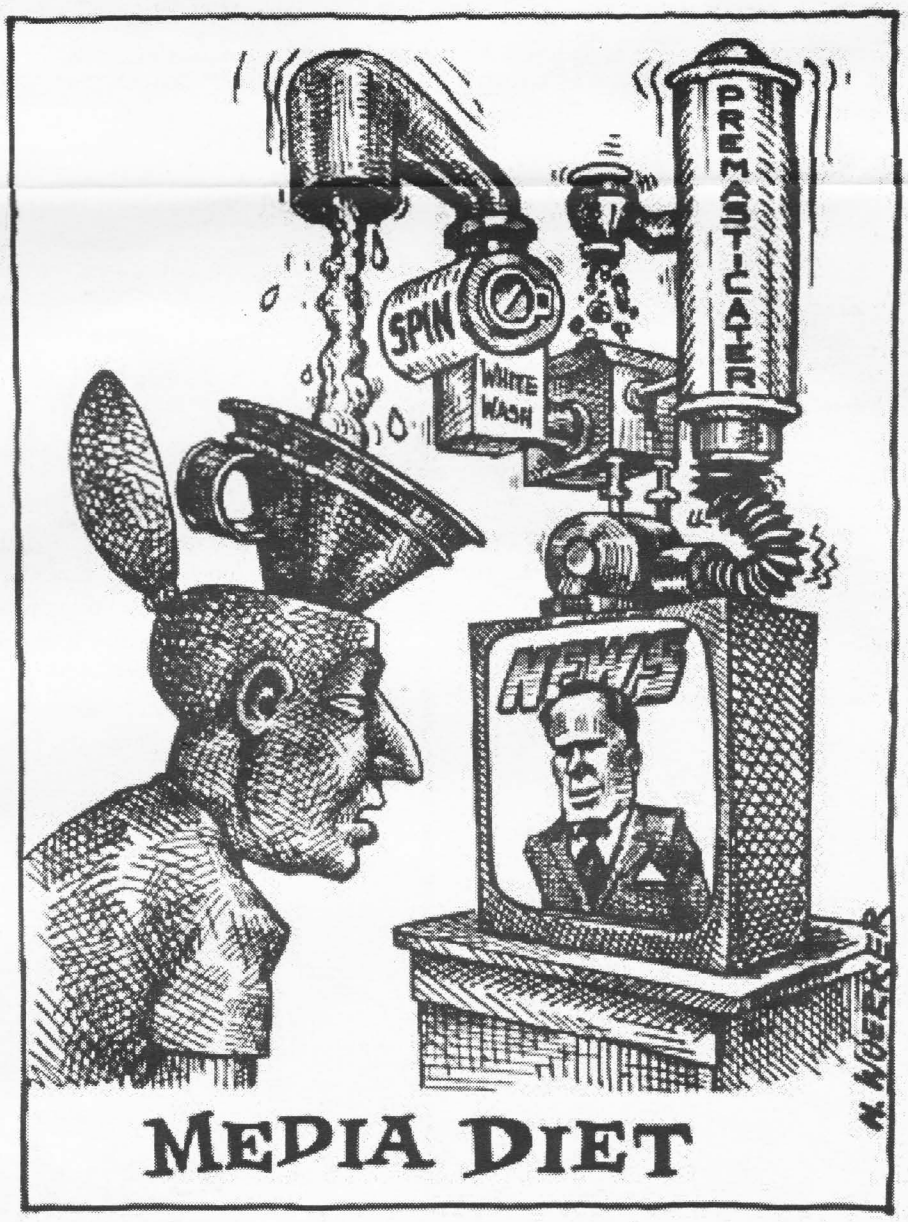
Classes concern us/themselves with language and thinking (language so that thinking, thinking so that language), performance, freedom, permaculture, and care.

Tune into KAOS 89.3 FM:

Wednesday, 3/3, 8-9 AM
on *The Breakfast Special*
Friday, 3/5, 1-3 AM
on *Dark Woods Casino,* and
Tuesday, 3/9, 12-2 PM
on *The World is Funkt*

The School for Designing a Society is an on-going experiment in making temporary educationalizing environments where the question "What would I consider a desirable society" is given serious and playful thinking and discussion, and taken as input to creative projects. Rather than orienting participants to find a comfy spot in the current system, the school offers tools, ambience, company and time in which people can imagine as system they would prefer.

Information available at **www.designingsociety.com**



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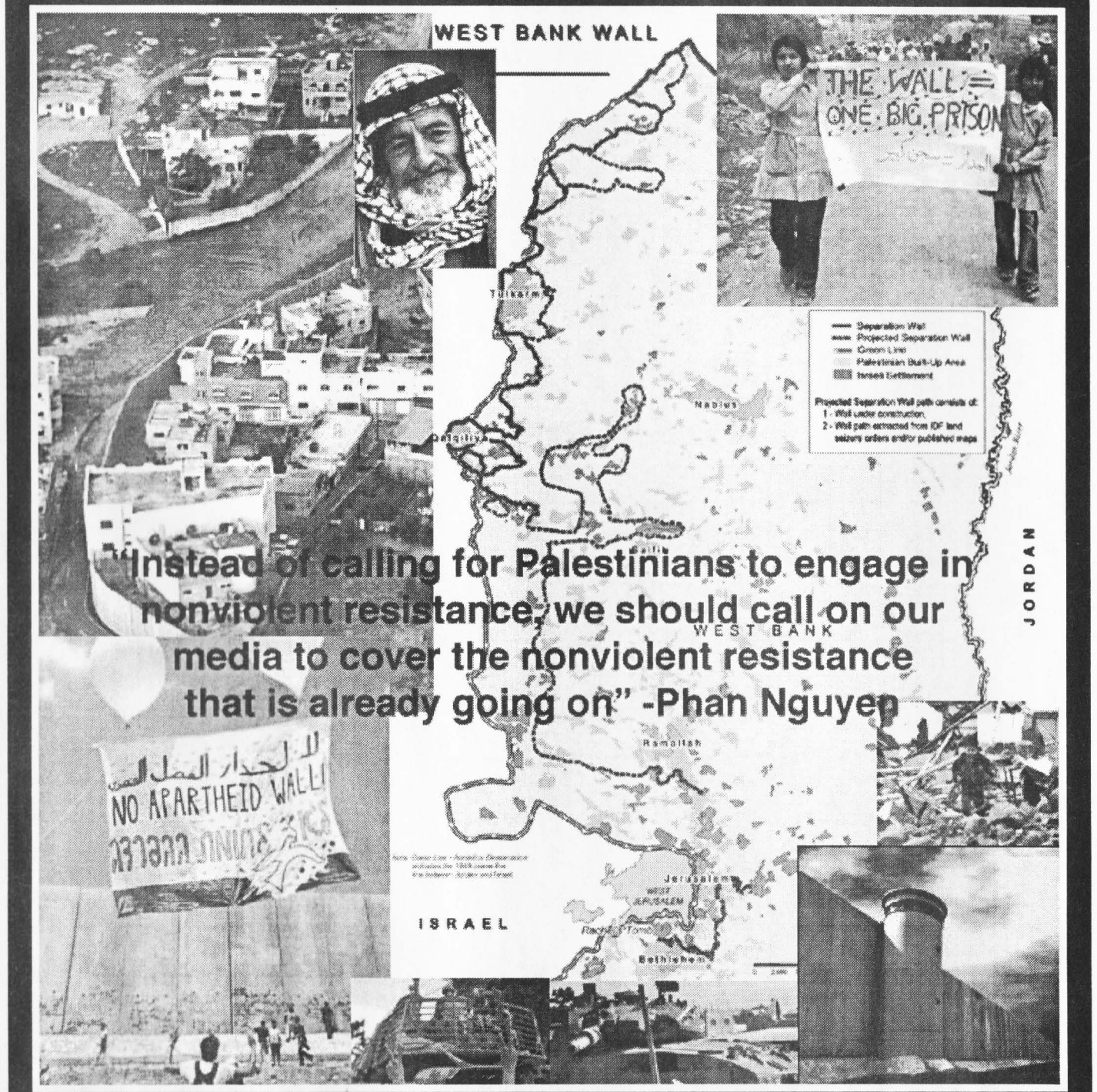
Volume 14, Number 11

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

March 2004

free

WORKS IN PROGRESS


WEST BANK WALL
THE WALL = ONE BIG PRISON
Separation Wall
Projected Separation Wall
Green Line
Palestinian Built-Up Area
Israeli Settlement
Projected Separation Wall path consists of:
1 - Wall under construction
2 - Wall path extracted from IDF land seizure orders and/or published maps
Nablus
Qalqilya
Tulkarm
JORDAN
WEST BANK
Ramallah
Jerusalem
WEST JERUSALEM
ISRAEL
Bethlehem
"Instead of calling for Palestinians to engage in nonviolent resistance, we should call on our media to cover the nonviolent resistance that is already going on" -Phan Nguyen
NO APARTHEID WALL

-1-
Palestine as judged by the privileged &
Building Low-income Power

-4-
Welfare Rights: Surviving in Difficult Times

-5-
Patriot Act Watch

-6-
Mercury Risk Rising

-7-
Maya Women Weaving Resistance in Chiapas &
Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister City Delegation Coming to Olympia

-10-
It Must Come Tumbling Down

-11-
US Soldier Seeks Refugee Status in Canada

-12-
Up Front:
A Flicker of Hope

-13-
Worldwide Anti-war Protests Influenced Democratic Party Candidates

Global Day of Protest Against the War

The World Still Says NO to War,

March 20th

12 Noon, Olympia
State Capitol Trivoli Fountain
Military Veteran's Speakers
12:45, March
1:30, Peaceful Rally
Heritage Park

Not One More Day
Not One More Death
Not One More Deception

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507